

Sports Illustrated

**COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
PREVIEW
ISSUE**

State of War

Scouting Reports
The Top

25

**In Oregon
a national title
is at stake!**

*Heisman hopefuls Ken Simonton of
Oregon State and Joey Harrington of Oregon >>*

**Julius Peppers:
North Carolina's superjock**

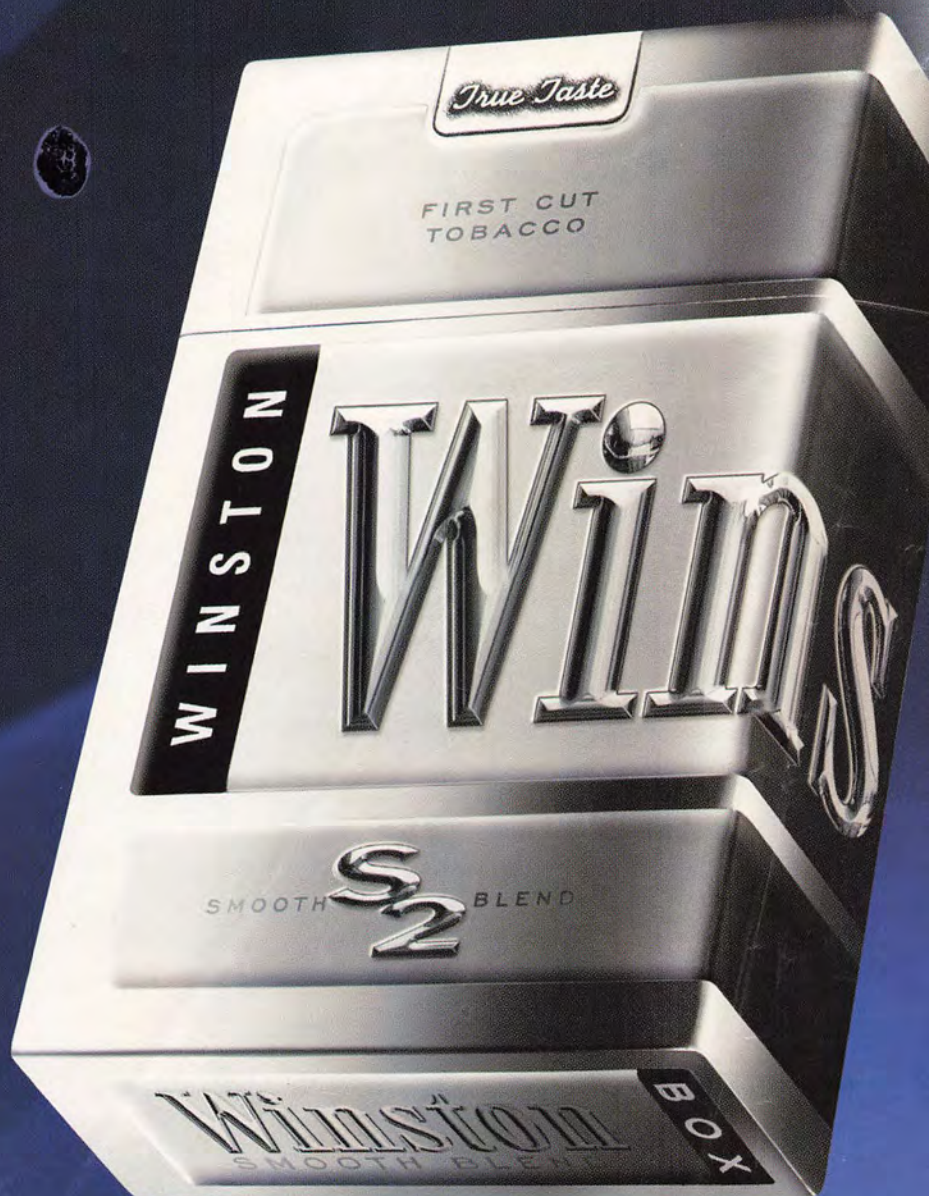
Eyes of Texas on Chris Simms

**We Rank
Every Team**

1-117

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A close-up portrait of Lucy Oakleaf, a woman with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a dark jacket and a necklace. The text is overlaid on the top left of her face.

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LUCY OAKLEAF, IBM Worldwide Client Director, Automotive

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BOAS BETZLER, IBM Senior Software Engineer

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Jimmy Clark in his Lotus 49, powered by the Ford-Cosworth DFV V8 that won the '67 Zandvoort GP in its debut. In August of '82, it would win its 150th Grand Prix.

MILESTONES IN FORD RACING

a winning
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with it an
obligation to
win again.
and again
and again.

Racing is a sport of people and machines, and the people *behind* the machines. The Ford-Cosworth engineers who developed the DFV V8, the most successful engine in Grand Prix history, made Ford a force to be reckoned with.

In June, powered by the Ford-Cosworth



XF, CART standout Max Papis underscored that heritage by taking the checkered flag in Portland. Other

recent winners include veteran Ricky Rudd,



who came through with a NASCAR victory at Pocono. In the NHRA, John Force



notched his 95th and 96th at Columbus and Pomona. In between, teammate Tony



Pedregon kept his terrific season going by taking St. Louis. And Colin

McCrae and Nicky Grist prevailed at the Acropolis



Rally in Athens, Greece.

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SHRINKAGE MAY OCCUR

THE CURIOUSLY STRONG MINTS®

"When there are bigger obstacles in your way," Greene said, "it's a whole different feeling when you win."

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PHOTOGRAPH BY
RICH FRISHMAN

cnn.com

For complete scores, stats and rankings throughout the season, plus **Ivan Maisel's** weekly Heisman watch, go to cnn.com/football/college.

Track and Field

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Outrunning injury and a new challenger, Maurice Greene won his third 100-meter world championship
BY TIM LAYDEN

Baseball

48 The Height Report

Scouts and general managers pant over very tall pitchers, because they believe that, indeed, bigger is better
BY E.M. SWIFT

Tall pitchers aren't an entirely new phenomenon, as this 1954 photo of 6' 8" Brave Gene Conley shows.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2001

74 The Gang's All Here!

Pursuit of a national title is now a year-round job, with a summer full of "voluntary" workouts for players. Is it excessive? BY JACK MCCALLUM

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Chris Simms is all football, all the time in his quest to quarterback the Texas Longhorns to the national championship BY AUSTIN MURPHY

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Despite his preference for basketball, North Carolina's Julius Peppers will devote himself to one sport year-round—football BY TIM CROTHERS

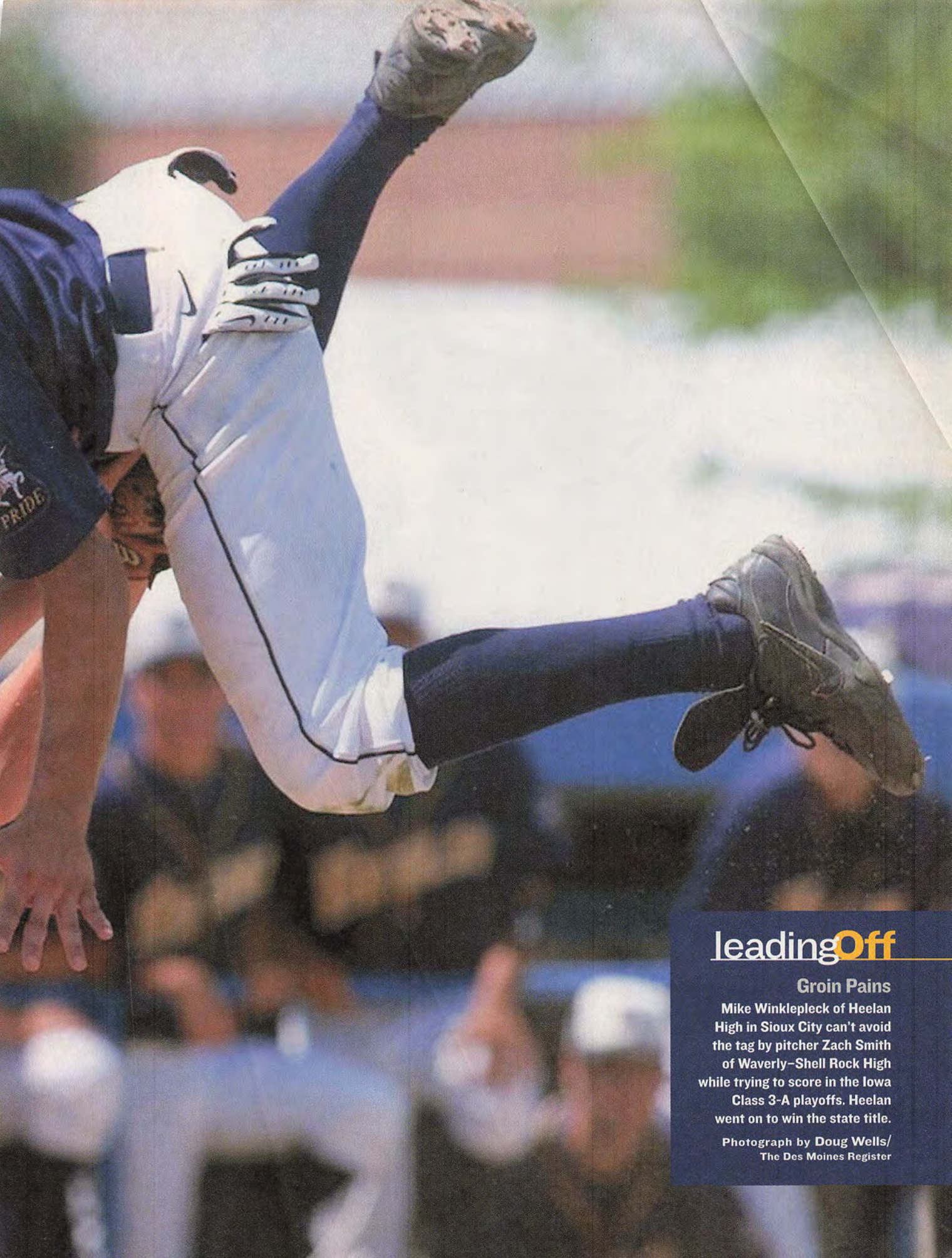
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Oregon and Oregon State both have Heisman candidates and title hopes, so their fun little rivalry has suddenly turned very serious BY GRANT WAHL

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Oregon State comes out on top in our detailed analyses of the Top 25 teams and our rankings of all 117 schools in Division I-A





leadingOff

Groin Pains

Mike Winklepleck of Heelan High in Sioux City can't avoid the tag by pitcher Zach Smith of Waverly-Shell Rock High while trying to score in the Iowa Class 3-A playoffs. Heelan went on to win the state title.

Photograph by Doug Wells/
The Des Moines Register





leadingOff

Making His Bones

Blitz, a 4-year-old border collie, is just doing his job as he tears through the slalom portion of the dog agility competition at the Great Outdoor Games in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Photograph by
Nancie Battaglia

leadingOff

Dirty Bond

Camaraderie on the Mississippi State football team was cemented in mud after the Bulldogs completed an obstacle course together in July (page 74).

Photograph by
Bill Frakes







Wrangler

Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

A man with short brown hair is sitting on a rustic wooden chair outdoors. He is wearing a light-colored polo shirt and blue jeans, and he is barefoot. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a large tree trunk on the left and a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage. The text "as real as" is in a small, white, sans-serif font, and "Wrangler" is in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol. The text is overlaid on the man's torso and the chair.

as real as
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A True Original

Your cover story on the "original" 1972 Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders overlooked the first Cowboys cheerleading squad, in '61, of which I was a member (*front row, second from right*). It was called the Cow Belles and included the head cheerleader from each high school in Dallas. We may not have been as glamorous as subsequent Cowboys Cheerleaders, but with free tickets to Cowboys games at the Cotton Bowl and Neiman Marcus-designed uniforms (which weren't ready in time for our squad picture), we sure had fun.

Patty Saunders Tague, Oklahoma City

Thanks for the Memories

Thanks for your Where Are They Now? issue (July 2–July 9). It was great to see what the Bad News Bears are up to, but please let Gabriela Sabatini know that no warm-blooded male in his right mind cares if she smells like a rotting banana in a dirty sweat sock. You have my permission to give her my phone number if she doesn't believe you.

Dave Hoadley, Plymouth, Minn.

What a great idea! I especially liked the story about Dom DiMaggio. I never realized what a terrific ballplayer he was. It must have been tough to play in the shadows of Ted Williams and brother Joe, but it sounds as if he was and still is a classy gentleman. Here's to you, Dom DiMaggio—hope you make it to the Hall.

Robert Glassberg, Boca Raton, Fla.

I applaud you for featuring Mark Fidrych. He is what a superstar should be—humble and talented, with a love for the game. It's no wonder that he continues to be a fan favorite in Detroit 20 years after he left baseball.

Larry Slabotsky, Detroit

Tim Layden paints a sad picture of Rick Mount, but his article made me smile. I was 11 in 1970, and I was in Purdue (now Mackey) Arena when the Rocket lit up Iowa for 61 points (still a Big Ten record). If the three-point line had existed, he would have scored more than 70.

Michael R. Adams, Bloomington, Ill.

I wasn't particularly interested in knowing where they were then. Why would I want to know where they are now?

Don Ghareeb, Glendale, Ariz.

Are you guys tough or what? You mention Rick Wise for probably the first time in 30 years, and it's bad news. Why not in the same breath also mention one of his great achievements—perhaps the greatest performance in baseball history. Remember? A 1971 4–0 no-hitter against the Reds in which he faced 28 batters, gave up only one walk and also hit two homers.

Mark Loncar, Honolulu

Fantastic! The Cowboys Cheerleaders look stunning to this day. This was better than the covers of the last five swimsuit issues combined, and unlike many of the athletes on your covers, not one of them has been involved in a contract dispute. Hire those ladies for a cover shoot yearly.

Mark Papageorgis, Vancouver

Golfer Karrie Webb completes a career Grand Slam and gets a picture and 34 words. You put the 1972 Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders on your cover, and they get an article. What were you thinking? Or shouldn't I ask?

J.J. Jennings, Nassau, N.Y.

O.K., here's the deal: Feature cheerleaders, *any* cheerleaders, on the cover ever again, and you can consider my long-running subscription canceled.

Billy Faix, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Jimmy's My Leader

As a longtime citizen of Red Sox Nation, I would like to cast a vote of confidence for their maligned manager, Jimmy Williams (*Hubbub*, July 2–July 9). Although he is obviously not the favorite of Dan Duquette and some of the players, Williams has consistently done more with less than any manager in my memory. The Sox have been competitive every year since 1998, and he has scraped together a winning team in spite of injury and dissension. Regardless of whether Jimmy is the manager when the curse is finally reversed, he deserves better than he is receiving from the organization.

Steve Paul, Wyncote, Pa.

Islands in the Sun

Kostya Kennedy missed the boat in his analysis of the Alexei Yashin trade (*INSIDE THE NHL*, July 2–July 9). For the first time in years the Islanders have a bona fide No. 1 center and a player the fans will come to watch, and they got him without giving up any offense. More important, while they may not win the Stanley Cup next year, the franchise is back on the map in the NHL.

Marc Nicols, Farmingdale, N.Y.

To Contact SI

Letters

- Our e-mail address is letters@si.timeinc.com.
- Our fax number is 212-467-4049.
- Or you can send your letter to:
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nasal allergies
change your life

Make
an easier
Change



Coping with the handicap of nasal allergies can get really frustrating.

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Using multi-symptom FLONASE Nasal Spray once a day can relieve all these nasal allergy symptoms — congestion, sneezing, and itchy, runny nose — all day and night. Results may vary.

If side effects occur, they are generally mild, and may include headache, nosebleed, or sore throat. For best results, use daily. Maximum relief may take several days. Available by prescription only.

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(fluticasone propionate)
Nasal Spray, 50 mcg



GlaxoSmithKline

Please see important information on the following page.

FLONASE® (fluticasone propionate) Nasal Spray, 50 mcg

BRIEF SUMMARY

SHAKE GENTLY BEFORE USE.

For Intranasal Use Only.

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: FLONASE Nasal Spray is contraindicated in patients with a hypersensitivity to any of its ingredients.

WARNINGS: The replacement of a systemic corticosteroid with a topical corticosteroid can be accompanied by signs of adrenal insufficiency, and in addition some patients may experience symptoms of withdrawal, e.g., joint and/or muscular pain, lassitude, and depression. Patients previously treated for prolonged periods with systemic corticosteroids and transferred to topical corticosteroids should be carefully monitored for acute adrenal insufficiency in response to stress. In those patients who have asthma or other clinical conditions requiring long-term systemic corticosteroid treatment, too rapid a decrease in systemic corticosteroids may cause a severe exacerbation of their symptoms.

The concomitant use of intranasal corticosteroids with other inhaled corticosteroids could increase the risk of signs or symptoms of hypercorticism and/or suppression of the HPA axis.

Patients who are on immunosuppressant drugs are more susceptible to infections than healthy individuals. Chickenpox and measles, for example, can have a more serious or even fatal course in patients on immunosuppressant doses of corticosteroids. In such patients who have not had these diseases, particular care should be taken to avoid exposure. How the dose, route, and duration of corticosteroid administration affects the risk of developing a disseminated infection is not known. The contribution of the underlying disease and/or prior corticosteroid treatment to the risk is also not known. If exposed to chickenpox, prophylaxis with varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) may be indicated. If exposed to measles, prophylaxis with pooled intramuscular immunoglobulin (IG) may be indicated. (See the respective package inserts for complete VZIG and IG prescribing information.) If chickenpox develops, treatment with antiviral agents may be considered.

PRECAUTIONS:

General: Rarely, immediate hypersensitivity reactions or contact dermatitis may occur after the administration of FLONASE Nasal Spray. Rare instances of wheezing, nasal septum perforation, cataracts, glaucoma, and increased intraocular pressure have been reported following the intranasal application of corticosteroids, including fluticasone propionate.

Use of excessive doses of corticosteroids may lead to signs or symptoms of hypercorticism, suppression of HPA function, and/or reduction of growth velocity in children or teenagers. Physicians should closely follow the growth of children and adolescents taking corticosteroids, by any route, and weigh the benefits of corticosteroid therapy against the possibility of growth suppression if growth appears slowed.

Although systemic effects have been minimal with recommended doses of FLONASE Nasal Spray, potential risk increases with larger doses. Therefore, larger than recommended doses of FLONASE Nasal Spray should be avoided.

When used at higher than recommended doses, or in rare individuals at recommended doses, systemic corticosteroid effects such as hypercorticism and adrenal suppression may appear. If such changes occur, the dosage of FLONASE Nasal Spray should be discontinued slowly consistent with accepted procedures for discontinuing oral corticosteroid therapy.

In clinical studies with fluticasone propionate administered intranasally, the development of localized infections of the nose and pharynx with *Candida albicans* has occurred only rarely. When such an infection develops, it may require treatment with appropriate local therapy and discontinuation of treatment with FLONASE Nasal Spray. Patients using FLONASE Nasal Spray over several months or longer should be examined periodically for evidence of *Candida* infection or other signs of adverse effects on the nasal mucosa.

FLONASE Nasal Spray should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with active or quiescent tuberculous infection; untreated local or systemic fungal or bacterial, or systemic viral infections or parasitic infection; or ocular herpes simplex.

Because of the inhibitory effect of corticosteroids on wound healing, patients who have experienced recent nasal septal ulcers, nasal surgery, or nasal trauma should not use a nasal corticosteroid until healing has occurred.

Information for Patients: Patients being treated with FLONASE Nasal Spray should receive the following information and instructions. This information is intended to aid them in the safe and effective use of this medication. It is not a disclosure of all possible adverse or intended effects.

Patients should be warned to avoid exposure to chickenpox or measles and, if exposed, to consult their physician without delay.

Patients should use FLONASE Nasal Spray at regular intervals as directed since its effectiveness depends on its regular use. A decrease in nasal symptoms may occur as soon as 12 hours after starting therapy with FLONASE Nasal Spray. Results in several clinical trials indicate statistically significant improvement within the first day or two of treatment; however, the full benefit of FLONASE Nasal Spray may not be achieved until treatment has been administered for several days. The patient should not increase the prescribed dosage but should contact the physician if symptoms do not improve or if the condition worsens. For the proper use of the nasal spray and to attain maximum improvement, the patient should read and follow carefully the accompanying patient's instructions.

Drug Interactions: In a placebo-controlled, crossover study in eight healthy volunteers, coadministration of a single dose of orally inhaled fluticasone propionate (1000 mcg, 5 times the maximum daily intranasal dose) with multiple doses of ketoconazole (200 mg) to steady state resulted in increased mean fluticasone propionate concentrations, a reduction in plasma cortisol AUC, and no effect on urinary excretion of cortisol. This interaction may be due to an inhibition of the cytochrome P450 3A4 isoenzyme system by ketoconazole, which is also the route of metabolism of fluticasone propionate. No drug interaction studies have been conducted with FLONASE Nasal Spray; however, care should be exercised when fluticasone propionate is coadministered with long-term ketoconazole and other known cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Fluticasone propionate demonstrated no tumorigenic potential in mice at oral doses up to 1000 mcg/kg (approximately 20 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults and approximately 10 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in children on a mcg/m² basis) for 78 weeks or in rats at inhalation doses up to 57 mcg/kg (approximately 2 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults and approximately equivalent to the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in children on a mcg/m² basis) for 104 weeks.

Fluticasone propionate did not induce gene mutation in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells in vitro. No significant clastogenic effect was seen in cultured human peripheral lymphocytes in vitro or in the mouse micronucleus test when administered at high doses by the oral or subcutaneous routes. Furthermore, the compound did not delay erythroblast division in bone marrow.

No evidence of impairment of fertility was observed in reproductive studies conducted in male and female rats at subcutaneous doses up to 50 mcg/kg (approximately 2 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis). Prostate weight was significantly reduced at a subcutaneous dose of 50 mcg/kg.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C. Subcutaneous studies in the mouse and rat at 45 and 100 mcg/kg, respectively (approximately equivalent to 4 and 10 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis, respectively) revealed fetal toxicity characteristic of potent corticosteroid compounds, including embryonic growth retardation, omphalocele, cleft palate, and retarded cranial ossification.

In the rabbit, fetal weight reduction and cleft palate were observed at a subcutaneous dose of 4 mcg/kg (less than the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis).

However, no teratogenic effects were reported at oral doses up to 300 mcg/kg (approximately 25 times the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis) of fluticasone propionate to the rabbit. No fluticasone propionate was detected in the plasma in this study, consistent with the established low

FLONASE® (fluticasone propionate) Nasal Spray, 50 mcg
bioavailability following oral administration (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Fluticasone propionate crossed the placenta following oral administration of 100 mcg/kg to rats or 300 mcg/kg to rabbits (approximately 4 and 25 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis).

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Fluticasone propionate should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Experience with oral corticosteroids since their introduction in pharmacologic, as opposed to physiologic, doses suggests that rodents are more prone to teratogenic effects from corticosteroids than humans. In addition, because there is a natural increase in corticosteroid production during pregnancy, most women will require a lower exogenous corticosteroid dose and many will not need corticosteroid treatment during pregnancy.

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether fluticasone propionate is excreted in human breast milk. When fluticasone propionate was administered to rats at a subcutaneous dose of 10 mcg/kg (less than the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults on a mcg/m² basis), radioactivity was excreted in the milk. Because other corticosteroids are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when FLONASE Nasal Spray is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: Five hundred (500) patients aged 4 to 11 years of age and 440 patients aged 12 to 17 years were studied in US clinical trials with fluticasone propionate nasal spray. The safety and effectiveness of FLONASE Nasal Spray in children below 4 years of age have not been established.

Oral and, to a less clear extent, inhaled and intranasal corticosteroids have been shown to have the potential to cause a reduction in growth velocity in children and adolescents with extended use. If a child or adolescent on any corticosteroid appears to have growth suppression, the possibility that they are particularly sensitive to this effect of corticosteroids should be considered (see PRECAUTIONS). **Geriatric Use:** A limited number of patients above 60 years of age (n=275) have been treated with FLONASE Nasal Spray in US and non-US clinical trials. While the number of patients is too small to permit separate analysis of efficacy and safety, the adverse reactions reported in this population were similar to those reported by younger patients.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In controlled US studies, more than 3300 patients with seasonal allergic, perennial allergic, or perennial nonallergic rhinitis received treatment with intranasal fluticasone propionate. In general, adverse reactions in clinical studies have been primarily associated with irritation of the nasal mucous membranes, and the adverse reactions were reported with approximately the same frequency by patients treated with the vehicle itself. The complaints did not usually interfere with treatment. Less than 2% of patients in clinical trials discontinued because of adverse events; this rate was similar for vehicle placebo and active comparators.

Systemic corticosteroid side effects were not reported during controlled clinical studies up to 6 months' duration with FLONASE Nasal Spray. If recommended doses are exceeded, however, or if individuals are particularly sensitive, or taking FLONASE Nasal Spray in conjunction with administration of other corticosteroids, symptoms of hypercorticism, e.g., Cushing's syndrome, could occur.

The following incidence of common adverse reactions (>5%, where incidence in fluticasone propionate-treated subjects exceeded placebo) is based upon seven controlled clinical trials in which 536 patients (57 girls and 108 boys aged 4 to 11 years, 137 female and 234 male adolescents and adults) were treated with FLONASE Nasal Spray 200 mcg once daily over 2 to 4 weeks and two controlled clinical trials in which 246 patients (119 female and 127 male adolescents and adults) were treated with FLONASE Nasal Spray 200 mcg once daily over 6 months. Also included in the table are adverse events from two studies in which 167 children (45 girls and 122 boys aged 4 to 11 years) were treated with FLONASE Nasal Spray 100 mcg once daily for 2 to 4 weeks.

Overall Adverse Experiences With >3% Incidence on Fluticasone Propionate in Controlled Clinical Trials With FLONASE Nasal Spray in Patients ≥4 Years With Seasonal or Perennial Allergic Rhinitis

	Vehicle Placebo (n=758) %	FLONASE 100 mcg Once Daily (n=167) %	FLONASE 200 mcg Once Daily (n=782) %
Headache	14.6	6.6	16.1
Pharyngitis	7.2	6.0	7.8
Epistaxis	5.4	6.0	6.9
Nasal burning/ nasal irritation	2.6	2.4	3.2
Nausea/vomiting	2.0	4.8	2.6
Asthma symptoms	2.9	7.2	3.3
Cough	2.8	3.6	3.8

Other adverse events that occurred in ≤3% but ≥1% of patients and that were more common with fluticasone propionate (with uncertain relationship to treatment) included: blood in nasal mucus, runny nose, abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, flu-like symptoms, aches and pains, dizziness, bronchitis.

Observed During Clinical Practice: In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during postapproval use of fluticasone propionate in clinical practice. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to either their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to fluticasone propionate, occurrence during clinical trials, or a combination of these factors.

General: Hypersensitivity reactions, including angioedema, skin rash, edema of the face and tongue, pruritus, urticaria, bronchospasm, wheezing, dyspnea, and anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reactions, which in rare instances were severe.

Ear, Nose, and Throat: Alteration or loss of sense of taste and smell and, rarely, nasal septal perforation, nasal ulcer, sore throat, throat irritation and dryness, cough, hoarseness, and voice changes.

Eye: Dryness and irritation, conjunctivitis, blurred vision, glaucoma, increased intraocular pressure, and cataracts.

OVERDOSAGE: Chronic overdosage with FLONASE Nasal Spray may result in signs/symptoms of hypercorticism (see PRECAUTIONS). Intranasal administration of 2 mg (10 times the recommended dose) of fluticasone propionate twice daily for 7 days to healthy human volunteers was well tolerated. Single oral doses up to 16 mg have been studied in human volunteers with no acute toxic effects reported. Repeat oral doses up to 80 mg daily for 10 days in volunteers and repeat oral doses up to 10 mg daily for 14 days in patients were well tolerated. Adverse reactions were of mild or moderate severity, and incidences were similar in active and placebo treatment groups. Acute overdosage with this dosage form is unlikely since one bottle of FLONASE Nasal Spray contains approximately 8 mg of fluticasone propionate.

The oral and subcutaneous median lethal doses in mice and rats were >1000 mg/kg (>2000 and >4100 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in adults and >10000 and >20000 times, respectively, the maximum recommended daily intranasal dose in children on a mg/m² basis).

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May 2001

"A SPLENDID ADVENTURE,
SPLENDIDLY TOLD, AND
ONE MORE PROOF THAT
THE FURTHER YOU GO
OUTSIDE, THE FURTHER
YOU GO INSIDE."

—Bill McKibben, author of
The End of Nature and
Long Distance

to the **EDGE**



A MAN,
DEATH VALLEY,
AND THE
MYSTERY OF
ENDURANCE
KIRK JOHNSON

"JOHNSON HAS RETURNED
OUT OF THE WILDERNESS
WITH A STORY SO VIVID
AND RIGHT AND PROFOUND
THAT HE MADE ME GASP
AT THE REAL MEANING OF
VICTORY."

—KENNY MOORE,
AUTHOR OF *BEST EFFORTS*

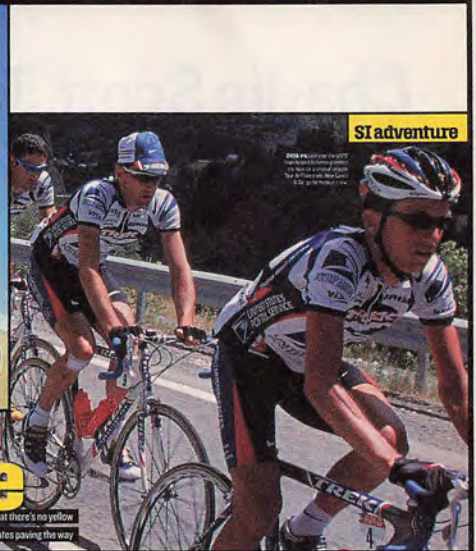
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A Little Extra

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WERE YOU enraptured while reading E.M. Swift's SI profile of Erik Weißenmayer, the first blind man to reach the summit of Everest? Did your jaw drop at the photograph by Heinz Kluetmeier of Kenyan marathoner Julius Bitok training with giraffes? If you're an SI subscriber and you're scratching your head in confusion, it's probably because you've been missing out on some of the most provocative writing and pictures SI offers.

Many subscribers—even cover-to-cover loyalists—have yet to sign up for either SI ADVENTURE or GOLF PLUS, two additional sections of sports coverage that are available, at no extra charge, within the weekly magazine. Four hundred thousand of you already receive the three-month-old SI ADVENTURE, which packs pieces on everything from catching waves to catching big air, from bouldering to bouldering. In this, its inaugural year, SI ADVENTURE will appear in 10 issues of

SI. Along with its seven-year-old brother, GOLF PLUS, an almost weekly supplement that annually provides some 300 pages of golf news and features to 475,000 readers, SI ADVENTURE is available to subscribers upon request.

There's one hitch: For now, subscribers can receive one section or the other—not both. Depending on whether 15-foot swells or a tee time at Pebble Beach would be more likely to rouse you at 6 a.m., you can order SI ADVENTURE or GOLF PLUS to go with all our other sports coverage to which you are accustomed. Just dial 1-800-205-0314 or visit www.sicustomerservice.com and state your preference, and our customer service staff will take it from there.

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Did we mention that it's free?

Bill Colson

Bill Colson,
Managing Editor



Charlie Scott, Tar Heels Guard

DECEMBER 2, 1968

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Sports Illustrated

CHALLENGE
TO UCLA



"Playing basketball," Scott (center on cover) says, alluding to discrimination he faced in college, "was the easy part."



JAMES DRANE (COVER); BOB MANONEY

HE MADE a name for himself on the basketball court. "None of my close friends called me Charlie," says Charles Scott, who became one of the first black scholarship athletes at a major southern college when he joined the North Carolina basketball team as a 6' 5" guard in 1967. "Neither did my parents. It was like a stage name." Scott picked up the moniker when Davidson coach Lefty Driesell called him that while recruiting him. The name stuck, especially with members of the media, and Scott carried it through three seasons as a Tar Heel and 10 in the pros.

Now Scott, 52, will help Kwame Brown make his name in the NBA. Scott joined the Washington Wizards in July to serve as a mentor for Brown, pioneering a program that the league hopes to expand. "Kwame has the pressure of being the

first pick and the first high school player who was the first pick—and having been drafted by Michael [Jordan] just adds to it," says Scott. "I can relate to that pressure, having been the first black at North Carolina."

It's doubtful any Tar Heels players before him had to deal with being excluded from restaurants because of their skin color or with being the target of racially motivated jeers and threats from fans at other ACC schools. Scott may even have been passed over for some individual awards because of his race, though this could have been the result of playing for Dean Smith, a coach whose focus was never on one player. Yet Scott still ranks fifth in career scoring at North Carolina, played in two Final Fours and won a gold medal at the '68 Olympics. "Playing basketball," he says, "was the easy part."

Scott kept making things look easy on the court, sharing the ABA's Rookie of the Year award while playing for the Virginia Squires in 1971 and winning an NBA championship with the Boston Celtics in '76. After his playing career, he worked as the director of sports marketing at Champion, the sports apparel manufacturer, from 1990 to '97 and then as the executive vice president of CTS, a telemarketing firm. Both companies are based in the Atlanta area, where Charles lives with Trudy, his wife of 15 years, and their three children. Still close to the North Carolina program and Coach Smith, Charles has twice sent sons Shannon, 9, and Shaun, 11, to attend the Tar Heels' basketball camp because he hopes they'll learn the same values he did. "We were taught character, loyalty, perseverance—all these things help you in your daily life," Charles says. "They have a lot to do with how I grew and the person I am today."

—Will Kimmey

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TODAY:

How many scoops?

TOMORROW:

How many college degrees?

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I ALWAYS liked Korey Stringer, but only for his hair, which exploded from his head in minidreadlocks, like novelty spring snakes from an opened can, and for the way—in his purple Vikings uniform top—he put me in mind of a hip-hop Barney the Dinosaur. Beyond that I knew almost nothing about the Minnesota offensive tackle until he died on Aug. 1 at age 27 and I learned that he had lived year-round in Bloomington.

That's my hometown, and the place where all my friends and I had become, like it or not, permanently em-purpled. As adults we can no more shake our lifelong allegiance to the Vikings than we can shed our ties to one another, or to Bloomington, or to our families. To this day my computer password is V-I-K-I-N-G, and the single item in my home that betrays my profession is a Vikings road jersey, number 88, that was signed and sent to me by my alltime hero, Alan Page. (When, as a 33-year-old, I opened the box that the jersey came in, the hair on my arms stood on end.)

So I was looking forward to last weekend with greater excitement than is perhaps strictly healthy in a grown man. Ron Yary, the right tackle on the four Vikings Super Bowl teams of my childhood, would be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame last Saturday, 24 hours before Twins centerfielder Kirby Puckett—the most popular person, now or ever, in the state of Minnesota—would be enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame. St. Paul native and former Twin Dave Winfield would join Puckett in Cooperstown on Sunday, making the weekend one of the most anticipated in the sports history of my home state. It was especially resonant for me that each of the athletes involved was retired. The Vikings of today, while I rooted for them, were not real. They were cartoons, almost literally so in the case of Stringer, with the Barney build and Sideshow Bob hair. I admired the preposterous talent of wide receiver Randy Moss, but was put off by his arrogance, which appeared to be equally outsized.

Those shallow assumptions changed when Stringer, in essence, worked himself to death in practice last week and, hours later, Moss stepped to a microphone to remember his friend. He got only as far as this halting reminiscence: "After the games I'd see his wife and son in the lounge. . . ." Then grief bent him double

like a jackknife, and Moss was led away from the podium, sobbing. In that instant, two comic-book figures stepped off the page and became—for the first time in my eyes—fully human.

In the days following his death, news reports revealed Stringer to be the best-liked player in the Vikings' locker room. The compliments were not the customary kindnesses that eulogists grant to anyone who hasn't been convicted of crimes against humanity.

We read, rather, of countless instances that brought Stringer, in death, fully to life. A caller to a Twin Cities radio station told of Stringer's stopping, after a Vikings game, to help the fan change a tire. While visiting a youth football program in his hometown of Warren, Ohio, Stringer retrieved from his truck his \$15,000 Pro Bowl appearance check and—on an impulse—endorsed it over to the organization. He was, of course, father to three-year-old Kodie, so the 335-pound Stringer sat on his Bloomington porch on Halloween and insisted that timid children take more candy from the bowl: Take a "Korey handful," he told trick-or-treaters.

He was, in other words, exceedingly difficult to dislike. Tom Powers of the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* recalled a tense postgame locker room in which Moss lashed out at reporters who were waiting at his locker after a shower. "Why don't you go over there and watch Big K get dressed?" Moss told the throng. To which Big K replied, "Have to put a dollar in the G-string if you want to watch. I'm not going to perform for free." Everyone—reporters and Moss alike—roared.

"The hardest thing I had to do was ask him to be a tough guy," Vikings offensive line coach Mike Tice said of Stringer at Friday's memorial. "You know why? He wasn't a tough guy. He was a sweetheart. He was a teddy bear. He was a little kid."

Evidently Stringer tried at one time to be more menacing, getting a tattoo that read FTW (F--- the World). But he didn't have it in him, and Stringer began to tell people that the tat really stood for Find the Way. He seems to have done so before saying goodbye. Or not goodbye, really, for Stringer never said that. In parting, he always said, "Peace."

It's a tragedy that someone as young as Stringer had to speak his final Peace last week. At the same time, it was a privilege, finally, to have met him. □

Requiem For a Viking

It took his untimely death for the world to learn about Korey Stringer's gentle soul



Highlights

SATURDAY 8/11

► Comets at Sparks

NBC 4 PM This likely WNBA Western Conference finals preview will allow viewers to wish upon a shooting Comet, Houston forward Tina Thompson (20.9 points per game through Sunday), or merely watch as her rebound-clearing elbows cause Sparks to fly. The playoffs begin on Thursday (ESPN2, 8 p.m.), thus affording viewers the Liberty of thinking up their own bad puns involving the league's postseason teams.

TUESDAY 8/14

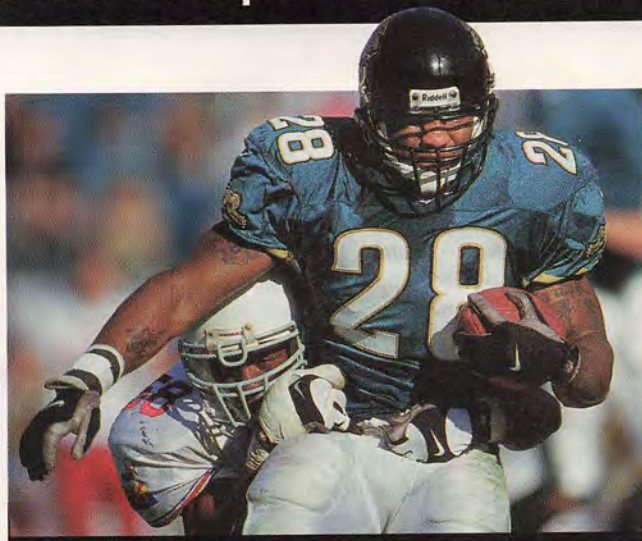
► Real Sports

HBO 10 PM It sounds about as feasible as playing the piano with your toes or becoming president without winning the popular vote, but Phil Blackwell routinely shoots in the low 90s on the golf course even though he's blind. In an illuminating report, Bryan Burwell looks at Blackwell and other members of the U.S. Blind Golf Association. Also on the slate: segments on the Ichiro craze and on wide receiver Kellen Winslow II, who's headed to Miami against the wishes of his father, the NFL Hall of Fame tight end who would have preferred that his namesake attend a college with a black head football coach.

THURSDAY 8/16

► PGA Championship, early rounds

TNT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 1 PM Maybe the time has come for Sergio García, who has yet to win a major, to become a man in full at the PGA, held this year in Atlanta—a city that when its teams' fortunes were at a low ebb adopted a rallying cry of "Go Braves! And take the Falcons and Hawks with you." Local knowledge should benefit British Open champion David Duval, who played his college golf at Georgia Tech.



Don't Miss

THURSDAY 8/16

► Jaguars at Giants

ESPN 8 PM It may be a Thursday, but you can still gather your rowdy friends (and even some sedate ones), flip over from *Friends* and settle in for what should be a watchable preseason game—a rematch (at the same site, Giants Stadium) of a 2000 regular-season finale, which New York won 28-25. The Giants are fresh off a Super Bowl appearance and looking to fine-tune their offense. Jacksonville and running back Fred Taylor (*above*) are trying to rebound from a 7-9 campaign. If the attitude of the top clipboard-toter is any indicator, things are looking up for the Jaguars. "I'm as excited as I've ever been about a season this year, probably more excited," says coach Tom Coughlin, a man not known for Pat Croce-esque exuberance who nonetheless seems ready for some football.

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AUGUST 11 - 26

ESPN ESPN2 abc

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REEL PERSONAL

Customized highlights have arrived, courtesy of Major League Baseball's revamped website

WHETHER YOU'RE Woody Allen or a baseball fan with cinematic impulses, if you want to make a movie, you need a vision. Perhaps you want to show a tale of raw power, like the story of the Reds' home run barrage that helped beat the Dodgers 7-4 last Thursday. Or something more artistic—say, a montage of double plays turned by the Indians' slick shortstop, Omar Vizquel (right). Or how about a police drama in which Blue Jays outfielder-sheriff Raul Mondesi guns down runners trying to take an extra base? Such visions can become reality in Custom Cuts, a do-it-yourself highlights feature launched last month by mlb.com.

Custom Cuts auteurs need a RealPlayer plug-in and a modem with a speed of at least 56K. The site provides a video database of the 2001 season. Users can search for any player or any team in the categories of batting, pitching, fielding and baserunning and even refine the search according to specific circumstances, like strikeouts with the bases loaded and bunt singles. Clips can be played individually, or five can be meshed into an extended piece—for instance, the Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki swiping third five times.

For now Custom Cuts is free, but mlb.com soon plans to charge a flat fee (around \$15). The fee will cover a daily e-mail delivering video highlights of selected players. "It'll be just like getting the morning paper," says Bob Bowman, CEO of Major League Baseball Advanced Media.

Plagued by incorrect scores and malfunctioning features, mlb.com got off to as bad a start this season as the A's. Like Oakland, though, the site is righting itself, and with Custom Cuts, it has hit a big home run.

—John O'Keefe



Local Heroes

THEY'VE BEEN together in TV and radio booths for eight seasons, but Duane Kuiper and Mike Krukow, the Giants' broadcast team on Fox Sports Net Bay Area, called their first games 16 years ago in the San Francisco dugout. Because Kuiper, a utility infielder, was mainly a pinch hitter by then and Krukow only worked every few days as a starting pitcher, they would huddle on the bench and provide an inning or two of impromptu, comedy-filled commentary. "We would make sure to include anybody who was around us in our play-by-play, too," says Krukow.

"Especially this one guy, Ricky Adams, who was the 25th man on the team. By the end of every broadcast we had somehow made him into the next Babe Ruth. He loved it."

Now Kipe and Kruke are making their audience laugh as one of the top local baseball broadcast teams in the country. (Dish owners can sample their telecasts on DirecTV and DISH Network.) "People respond to them because they're totally natural on the air," says Jon Miller, who also does Giants radio and TV in addition to ESPN's *Sunday Night Baseball*. "A lot of former players can't do that."

The two have divergent broadcasting personalities. Play-by-play man Kuiper, 51, has a fluid, deadpan delivery and what Miller calls "that booming John Wayne voice." In addition to being a sharp analyst, Krukow, 49, who had a 124-117 record in 13 major league seasons, is the clown, a bit of a homer who isn't afraid to rib his partner. "When you have one home run in 12 seasons," says Krukow, alluding to Kuiper's power number, "the door is wide, wide open."

Early in a recent broadcast from Pac Bell Park of a Giants' game against the Diamondbacks, Krukow focused on a key factor to watch: San Francisco starter Livan Hernandez's fastball. "If the velocity is between 86 and 88 [mph], it sets up all his other pitches," Krukow said. "If the velocity is down at 84, it can be a tough night for him."

Hernandez's first two fastballs clocked in at 88, and he went on to pitch seven innings of two-hit ball in a 1-0 Giants win. The tight game didn't curtail the pair's comedy shtick, which featured a running commentary on a child in the stands wearing his glove on his head. "His parents will have to have that removed when he's six," said Krukow.

Although both could easily work national games, they're content to stay by the Bay. "I'm having too much fun," says Krukow. "I know I'm going to go to work every day and laugh my ass off 10 times. What could be better than that?"

—C.B.

Deadpan Duane Kuiper and mirthful Mike Krukow began their broadcast act as Giants.

THE ZAPPER

Last Saturday's final of the U.S. Women's Amateur golf tournament on ESPN, won by Meredith Duncan over Nicole Perrot on the first extra hole, used close-up camera angles to showcase enthusiastic competitors—making it infinitely more fun to watch than ABC's boring *Battle at Bighorn* five days earlier. . . . Couldn't ABC have prevailed upon the organizers of the World Track and Field Championships to schedule the marquee 100-meter final to coincide with Sunday afternoon's telecast? As it was, Maurice Greene got his title (page 44) some two hours after the coverage ended.

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Scorecard

Edited by Albert Kim and Mark Mravic

TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT

Despite recent tragedies, says one NFLer, players will still go all out

SI asked Rams defensive end Grant Wistrom to reflect on the death last week of Vikings tackle Korey Stringer in training camp and on the NFL’s workout mentality.

Early on the morning of Aug. 1, I was relaxing in my dorm room on the Western Illinois campus when a teammate knocked on the door and delivered horrible news: Korey Stringer had died of complications resulting from heat stroke.

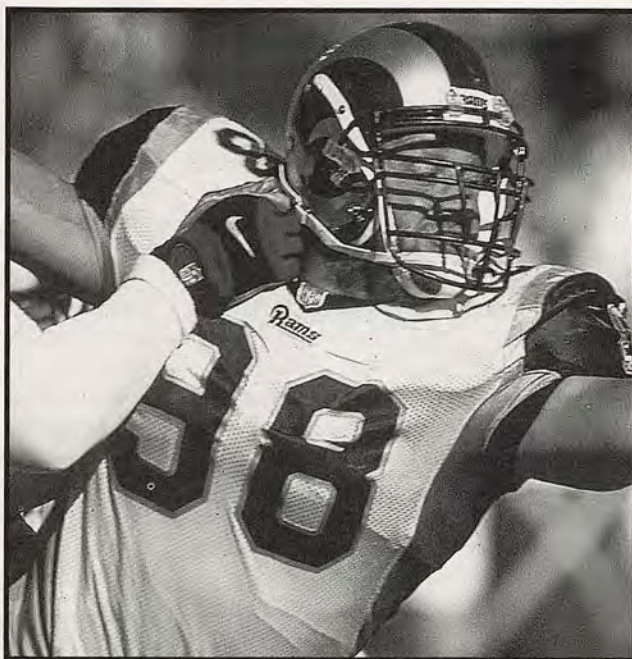
My first thoughts were about his family, and I vowed to put them in my prayers. Then I went to practice, where the same Midwestern heat wave that had

struck down Korey was waiting for me and my teammates. In temperatures that would reach the mid-90s, I proceeded to do what I always do during training camp: sweat up a storm, push my body to the brink of exhaustion and suck it up until the last bullhorn sounds.

I didn’t think of Korey once during that practice. You can’t. You do, and you lose your concentration. I don’t mean to sound callous, but I can’t change my approach. Sure, something like that can happen to anyone at any time, but most football players choose not to think about it. We do what we have to do to get prepared for the season, and practicing in the heat is one of those things.

We play a rough game, and none of us in the NFL got this far by being cautious with our bodies. One reason I do what I do is that I’m willing to sacrifice and work when things are hard—whether I’m hot, hurt or fatigued. I take pride in my ability to plow through discomfort; that’s what makes me a football player. It’s the mentality I adopted while growing up in Webb City, Mo., and carried with me to Nebraska, where I learned to thrive in August heat waves and November cold.

Make no mistake, this has been a dreadful summer for football. My heart goes out to



“I take pride in my ability to plow through discomfort,” says Wistrom.

the families of Eraste Autin, the Florida freshman who died after collapsing from heat stroke on July 25, and of Rashidi Wheeler, the Northwestern senior who succumbed to an asthma attack during practice last Friday. Still, I don’t think this was anything more than a calamitous chain of coincidences.

The days of coaches running practices like boot camps are over. We take plenty of breaks, and no one gives us a hard time for pausing to take a drink of water. It’s true that when a guy

sits out practice, you tend to give him a little grief. But players aren’t stupid. We’ve all hit the wall, and when we see that someone can’t go any longer, we know when to lay off.

In the days since the news about Korey broke, hundreds of people who don’t play football have said the same thing to me: “It’s hot out there. Are you guys doing anything differently because of what happened?” The answer is no. We’ll just keep charging forward, full steam ahead. □

A sampling of measures used to cope with heat at NFL training camps

If a **Packer** loses seven pounds during practice, he must drink seven 20-ounce bottles of water or of an electrolyte-boosting drink before the next practice.

The **Broncos** have eight trainers and camp aides who ferry water, sports drinks and iced towels to players.

During practice on hot days, the players in **Jaguars** camp get a short break every 50 minutes in an air-conditioned sideline tent.

Twice during each practice the **Steelers** use a psychrometer to measure moisture in the air and calculate the heat index, helping coaches determine how to proceed.

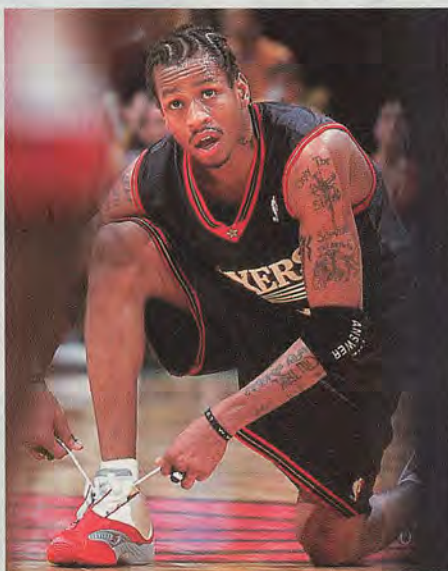
THE NBA'S NEW PARTNER

THE OTHER SHOE DROPS

For basketball fans it's hard not to think of the NBA as a "Nike league," given the strong link between the two in the decade and a half since Michael Jordan turned pro. That's why last week's announcement of a 10-year partnership between the NBA and Reebok came as a shock. Under the deal, Reebok will, over the next three years, become the exclusive supplier and marketer of all warmup gear and game uniforms for the NBA and the WNBA, and it will also outfit the NBDL, the NBA's new minor league. In addition, Reebok gets the rights, with limited exceptions, to design and sell NBA apparel (an estimated \$200 million business now shared by some 20 companies) and to develop NBA-brand basketball shoes.

The groundwork for this deal was laid three years ago, when Reebok began questioning the value of its slew of athlete endorsement contracts. "It takes heavy spending and marketing to bring a celebrity to light," says Reebok CEO Paul Fireman. "We decided to start backing away from having multiple celebrity endorsers."

While Nike and others would follow suit, none took the strategy as far as Reebok. It chose to drop such stars as Shaquille O'Neal, Emmitt Smith and Frank Thomas and retained only a few high-profile athletes, among them Allen Iverson and Venus Williams. That move helped Reebok focus on broader initiatives. Last December it struck an exclusive 10-year deal worth a reported \$250 million to outfit the NFL. Marketing experts estimate the NBA contract to be worth about \$175 million.



Reebok has both Iverson and, now, the NBA tied up.

Nike and the NBA say they'll continue to work together at the grassroots and international levels. Plus, as Nike spokesman Eric Oberman points out, "Nearly 70 percent of the players in the NBA wear our shoes." Still, the Reebok deal is a coup for a company that has long played in Nike's shadow. "It's a real power punch for Reebok," says Nova Lanktree of the Chicago-based Sports Celebrity Network. "Iverson, one of the league's main stars, is a Reebok man, and now Reebok will be all over apparel." —Kristin Green Morse

Go Figure

2

Consecutive Red Sox Family Days on which outfielder Carl Everett has been ejected: last year for head-butting an umpire and this year for throwing his bat between an ump's legs after a called third strike.

108

Competitors, of the 2,600 who took part in last week's Francophonie Games in Quebec, who applied for political asylum in Canada.

\$16,000

Amount a group of former CBA team owners paid for rights to the name Continental Basketball Association in U.S. bankruptcy court.

2

Home runs hit by White Sox DH Jose Canseco after he visited a children's cancer center and promised the kids that he'd knock one out that night.

0 for 5

Orioles outfielder Melvin Mora's performance in his first game after his wife, Gisel, gave birth to quintuplets.

On the Market



AUSTIN POWERS would love Wilt Chamberlain's old Los Angeles abode. The Big Dipper's house, designed in 1971 by Chamberlain and architect David Rich and nestled atop a hill in Bel Air, is chock-full of amenities sure to make any bird randy. (No doubt it was the scene of some of Wilt's 20,000 conquests.) Even better, it's for sale, and Chamberlain's estate has slashed the asking price from \$7.4 million to \$4.375 million. Here's what you get (yeah, baby!).

- A 7,158-square-foot, six-bedroom pyramidal mansion on 2.5 acres with city-to-sea views.
- A "playroom" with mirrored walls, a circular pink velvet wraparound sofa

and pink lamé pillows. (Alas, the wall-to-wall waterbed is gone.)

- A 20-foot-long foyer leading to a chrome-and-glass central staircase with rope railings.
- A three-level, triangular master bedroom culminating in a love nest at the peak; the mirrored ceiling over the bed retracts to reveal a view of the sky.
- A sunken, ancient Roman-motif bathtub covered in 18-karat gold-leaf tile at the foot of the master bed.
- A moatlake pool from which frolickers can swim into the living room.
- A bathroom papered floor to ceiling with photos of a scantily clad woman; light switches are strategically located.

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Sox for Sale

IN THE 10 MONTHS since it was announced that the Red Sox were for sale (bids must be in by Aug. 15), interested buyers have courted celebrities to join their efforts. Here's a look at the pros and cons of some of those big names.

Tom Werner, TV producer (*The Cosby Show* and *Roseanne*) and former Padres exec **PRO** Current squeeze Katie Couric could light up Fenway with her smile **CON** Could be tempted to hire underworked Roseanne to sing national anthem

Jack Welch, retiring CEO of General Electric **PRO** Free toasters for everyone **CON** Too many toasted Pop Tarts for Rich (El Guapo) Garces can't be good

George Mitchell, former U.S. Senator from Maine **PRO** Negotiated peace treaty in Northern Ireland **CON** Might find it harder to smooth relations between general manager Dan Duquette and skipper Jimmy Williams

Ken Burns, filmmaker **PRO** Knows team's futile history **CON** Three-hour ball games stretch to 19; new radio team: Shelby Foote and Doris Kearns Goodwin

Stephen King, author **PRO** Would scare away the curse of you-know-who **CON** Would scare away everyone else, too

Lost Classics

The Spitball

WHEN I was 10, I would pull the stirrups of my Little League uniform high, triple-knot the laces on my rubber spikes and, if I was pitching that day, slather Vaseline on the underside of the bill of my cap. That was in the late 1970s, after *Me and the Spitter* by Gaylord Perry (below) came out, and in the early stages of the spitball's last golden age. (I use the term *spitball* the way most people do, as a catchall that includes greaseballs, jellyballs, scuffballs and all the other enhanced pitches that were outlawed in 1920.)

My Vaseline balls never darted the way Perry's did, but my naughtiness added to my swagger on the mound. In the big leagues, ball-doctoring lent the game a sense of mischief. After Hank Aaron homered off Perry in the 1972 All-Star Game, Aaron described the pitch as a "spitball, down and in."

According to lore, suspicious umps inspecting Don Sutton would find notes on him with messages like "Not here" and "You're getting warmer."

In '87 Joe Niekro won a spot in America's heart when, during a search by an ump, he emptied his pockets with a flourish that sent an emery board flying.

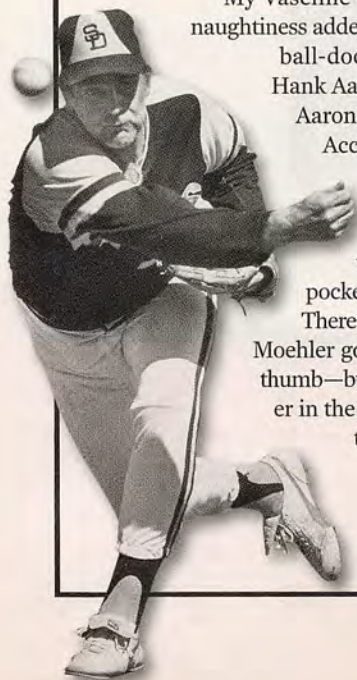
There are still rare transgressions—in 1999 Detroit's Brian Moehler got caught with a swatch of sandpaper stuck to his thumb—but the spitball culture has faded. Baseball was sweeter in the days when, legend has it, a coach went out to talk to a struggling pitcher and had this conversation:

"Son, are you cheating?" the coach asked.

"No way," the offended pitcher said.

"Well," the coach told the pitcher, "it's about time you start."

—Kostya Kennedy



Blotter

Sacked

► **Caddie Miles Byrne**, by golfer Ian Woosnam. Two weeks after he failed to notice that Woosnam had too many clubs in his bag during the British Open, Byrne overslept and failed to turn up for Woosie's 7:15 a.m. tee time in Sunday's final round of the Scandinavian Masters. Local caddie Tommy Strand filled in.

SI's Robert H. Boyle in "Poison Roams Our Coastal Seas," in the Oct. 26, 1970, issue.

Spared

► The embarrassment of testifying in the Gold Club trial, Broncos running back Terrell Davis and Falcons running back Jamal Anderson. The two were subpoenaed but not called to the stand



Ordered

► By a Gainesville, Fla., jury, that Anheuser-Busch pay the family of Roger Maris \$50 million for improperly revoking its beer distributorship in 1997. Anheuser-Busch argued that the family didn't run the distributorship properly and said it would appeal the ruling. The Marises say they'll appeal, too, contending that the jury intended a larger award. ► By the Environmental Protection Agency, that General Electric clean up PCBs in the Hudson River, at an estimated cost of \$490 million. The toxins were brought to public attention by

before strip club owner Steve Kaplan and other defendants charged as part of a criminal conspiracy that included prostitution entered into plea bargains.

Moving

► The NFL's Cardinals' new stadium. The team last week agreed to spend about \$12 million on 12 acres adjacent to the planned site, with the intention of shifting the 73,000-seat venue $\frac{3}{10}$ of a mile to the southeast. The FAA had warned that the stadium as conceived might pose a danger to planes using Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport.



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We Got Who?

Trade mix-ups are rare, but they happen

In the July 26 trade between the White Sox and the Dodgers, Chicago G.M. Ken Williams thought he had dealt pitcher James Baldwin for 23-year-old Class A pitcher Jonathan Berry, among others. But because of a miscommunication between the teams' front offices, Williams had actually accepted 32-year-old Triple A outfielder Jeff Barry. Williams, who said the Sox would honor the deal, can at least take solace in knowing he's not the only exec to get the wrong man (and we're not talking Sam Bowie over Michael Jordan).

- In the 1977 baseball free-agent draft, the Giants thought they were using their eighth-round pick on infielder Bill Stein, who had hit .259 with 13 homers for the Mariners the year before.

However, when a Giants staffer called the player's agent after the draft, he learned that the Bill Stein they'd drafted was a minor league pitcher. That Stein went on to win five games during a four-year, three-team major league career. The infielder Stein, on the other hand, lasted eight more seasons as a utility man.

- In 1982 the Buccaneers were eyeing Bethune-Cookman tackle Booker Reese in the first round of the NFL draft, but before they had made their final decision, an equipment manager who was Tampa Bay's rep at the draft handed in a card with the name of Penn State guard Sean Farrell. Still wanting Reese, the Bucs quickly traded

their first choice in '83 to move up and get their man in the second round. Farrell started 59 games for the Bucs over the next five years; Reese started seven and produced one sack in two seasons before being traded for a 12th-round pick.

- In baseball's 1998 amateur draft, the Cardinals wanted to use their 11th-round pick to select Rene Vega, a lefty who was 11-1 for New York Dominican College in the Bronx. Alas, Ohio Dominican College in Columbus had its own lefty Vega, Joel, who was 3-5. St. Louis mistakenly picked Joel, who was elated; Rene was taken by the Mets in the 31st round. Said Cardinals scouting director Ed Creech, "When I write my book, I hope I can write that [Joel] made it, and everything turned out." Sorry, Ed. While Rene Vega is hardly tearing it up—he was 1-5 with a 3.64 ERA for the Double A Binghamton (N.Y.) Mets through Sunday—Joel turned down St. Louis's puny contract offer and returned to Ohio Dominican. He has yet to be heard from in pro ball.



DAVID WALBERG (DAILY); ERIC GAY/AP (AYALA); ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF WONG

the Beat

Golfer **John Daly** had a wild weekend in Las Vegas recently—but not of the kind for which he's infamous. On his way to last

week's International tournament in Colorado, Daly and girlfriend Sherrie Miller (below, with Daly) stopped in Vegas. At the end of a whirlwind three days, Daly was not only \$630,000 richer thanks to a little gambling luck, but also married. He and Sherrie, 25, a car saleswoman whom John recently met in Memphis, were hitched on July 29 in the Chapel at Bally's. "She made me sign a prenup, because she has all the money," joked Daly. So what about that \$630,000?

Said Daly, "I paid a lot of stuff off." . . . Actor **Dennis Quaid** might want to watch his step around new girlfriend **Shanna Moakler**. You might recall the nasty split Moakler had with her fiancé, **Oscar De La Hoya**, last fall. She changed all the locks in their house and slapped De La Hoya with a \$62.5 million palimony suit, claiming that she and their two-year-old daughter, Atiana Cecilia, were used "as props to promote his public image as a



good husband and father." De La Hoya's lawyer has called the allegations "totally false." . . . **Allen Iverson's** musical tastes aren't limited to rap. At his wedding to Tawanna Turner last Friday in Voorhees, N.J., Iverson escorted his mother to her seat to the Jackson 5's *I'll Be There*. After exchanging vows, he and Tawanna walked back up the aisle to *Ease on Down the Road* from *The Wiz*. The reception was decidedly more hip-hop. Half the 9,000-square-foot ballroom was curtained off to create a nightclub atmosphere, with records spun by DJ Kool.

This Week's Sign of the Apocalypse

Tony Ayala Jr., who served 16 years for rape and faces trial on charges of burglary with intent to commit sexual assault, beat Santos Cardona in a bout while wearing an electronic monitoring device on his left ankle.

They Said It

BILL MAZEROSKI

New Hall of Famer, just before cutting his tearful induction speech short: "I want to thank all the friends and family who made this long trip up here to listen to me speak and hear this crap."





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NCAA SPORTS

Look for the Union Label?

Ramogi Huma's Collegiate Athletes Association is organizing Division I players

BY ALEXANDER WOLFF

NCAA INTERNAL MEMO

To: Cedric Dempsey, Executive Director
From: Stuart Lickspittle, Director of Field Intelligence
Re: Collegiate Athletes Coalition

WITH THE kids coming back to campus, thought I'd pass along an update on this outfit (a.k.a. the CAC), which is trying to organize student-athletes around the country into a kind of Division I players' association. As you know, the United Steelworkers are bankrolling and advising the group. One of the CAC's founders, a former UCLA linebacker named Ramogi Huma, is on the phone to Pittsburgh two or three times a day. The CAC folks say it's not a union, only "a student advocacy group," but it could have a local on every campus by Christmas.

For now, anyway, the organizers don't want anything radical. All they're asking for is health insurance during off-season "voluntary" workouts (with the recent deaths at Florida State and Florida during such workouts, this issue takes on particular urgency), more generous life insurance coverage, the elimination of all employment restrictions during the academic year, and a modest bump in scholarship stipends to reflect the actual cost of attending college. On that last count it doesn't help us that in 1995 we suspended one of Huma's teammates, linebacker Donnie Edwards, now with the Kansas City Chiefs, after \$150 in unsolicited groceries showed up on Edwards's doorstep, allegedly sent by an agent who had heard him complain on a talk show about not being able to make ends meet in Westwood.

We can't demonize Huma as a revolutionary, even if his shaved head, bulldog tattoo and earring make him look the part. The guy should be doing one of our treacly promos during March Madness: He was

Pac-10 All-Academic before a hip injury ended his career; he just got his master's in public health; he wants to open a group home for troubled kids. When he sits in his apartment (which doubles as his office) in Sherman Oaks, Calif., and points out how we waste our TV rights money, he sounds like a friggin' fiscal conservative. Huma never fails to say that the CAC's proposals would boost graduation rates



continuous access to the NCAA management council and board," Huma says. "When the student-athlete has to worry about where his next meal is coming from, at a time that \$3 billion is flowing into the system between football and basketball, something needs to be addressed." Not only that, but Huma has got our Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee smoked out as the sham that it is—a tiny oligarchy selected by the schools and the management council that can't even introduce legislation, much less vote on it.

I don't think the CAC will go nuclear on us. "We're not interested in striking," Huma says. "Not playing is something student-athletes don't want." Yet he won't say what they'll do if we don't meet with them in good faith and take up their concerns. "We'll definitely have tactics that, if necessary, would be effective enough to bring about changes," Huma says. "We're being tight-lipped in case we have to use them."

Sounds as if he's read Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. "If I were Cedric Dempsey," Huma says, "I'd say to myself, 'They're backed by the United Steelworkers, who have years of organizing experience. It's inevitable that there will be a national players' associa-

"Our goals are modest, feasible and attainable," Huma says. "They wouldn't strain the system."

and "enhance student-athlete welfare." (Honestly, Ced, where do people learn to talk like that?) "I think our goals are modest, feasible and attainable," he says. "They'd go a long way to help but wouldn't strain the system."

No coach is going to speak out against "enhanced student-athlete welfare," and athletic directors and presidents may get behind Huma too—as UCLA chancellor Albert Carnesale, athletic director Pete Dalis and football coach Bob Toledo all have. "It's important that we get direct,

tion in the near future. In every challenge lies an opportunity. If the NCAA makes the decision to work with us, there can be a great degree of cooperation."

I know these guys make you nervous, Ced. Back in March you said, "They need to consider [unionization] carefully because the repercussions may go well beyond what they anticipate." But if we call in the Pinkertons when the proles are asking for so little, I can't say for sure where this will all lead. What say you book the next flight for the Coast and hear the guy out? □

Kenny, your
Kinko's co-worker

The image shows a man named Kenny, a Kinko's employee, standing and holding a large stack of books and a laptop. He is wearing a dark blue apron with the Kinko's logo and a name tag that says 'KENNY'. The laptop screen displays 'kinkos.com'. To his right is a large chart titled 'PROJECTED SALES' and 'PERCENTAGE GROWTH BY PRODUCT'. The chart is a pie chart with five segments: 36% (blue), 29% (red), 15% (yellow), 12% (green), and 8% (purple). A smaller pie chart is also visible on the chart, showing 'PERCENTAGE GROWTH BY PRODUCT' with segments: 15%, 12%, 8%, 23%, and 26%.

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SOCCER

New Kids on the Pitch

D.C.'s Santino Quaranta, an All-Star at 16, typifies the MLS youth movement

BY MARK BECHTEL

THOMAS QUARANTA is a big fan of *The Godfather*. So big that when his son Thomas Jr. had his first child, Senior suggested that the boy be called Santino, after James Caan's character in the movie. Santino's parents couldn't have known it at the time, but it was fitting that they named him for the Corleone known as Sonny. A 16-year-old forward for D.C. United, Quaranta is the youngest pro athlete in a major U.S. team sport. (The similarities between Santino Quaranta and Santino Corleone end with the nickname. Quaranta is no hot-head, and last week, while driving to lunch near United's offices in suburban Washington, he navigated his Infiniti SUV, which he bought shortly after he signed his contract, through two toll booths on Route 267 without getting gunned down.)

Quaranta (pronounced kwa-RON-tuh) grew up in Highlandtown, a blue-collar neighborhood in southeast Baltimore that reminds his coach, Thomas Rongen, of another mob family. "It's like something out of *The Sopranos*," says Rongen. "In Amster-



"The older guys want to teach Santino (25) the ropes," says Rongen, "and he's eager to learn."

dam, I grew up in the same sort of street environment, and I'll tell you, it makes you grow up quick." Quaranta learned the game on a sandy pitch behind a school across the street from his house, and he was often the smallest and youngest player. That helped develop his toughness as well as his flair, a combination that has served him well in his rookie season in MLS. Through Sunday he had netted five goals in 13 games, been named Player of the Week in mid-July for scoring twice in a 3-1 win over New Eng-

land and started the July 28 All-Star Game.

The 6-foot, 165-pound Quaranta is the youngest member of a youth movement that's sweeping the league. His teenage cohorts include Landon Donovan, a 19-year-old striker for the San Jose Earthquakes, who scored four goals in the All-Star Game; the Chicago Fire's DaMarcus Beasley, another 19-year-old All-Star starter and one of the league's most dangerous attacking midfielders; Quaranta's 18-year-old teammate, midfielder Bobby Convey, who was elect-

ed to start the All-Star Game but missed the match because of a hernia; and Edward Johnson, a 17-year-old striker who has given the Dallas Burn a lift off the bench. "These kids are great for soccer," says D.C. goalkeeper Mike Ammann, who's 30, "but it's also a negative because we're putting undue pressure on them to come in so young and make a difference."

Of course, the youngsters wouldn't be facing such high expectations if they weren't good enough to foster them. Unlike NBA teams, which feel compelled to troll for high schoolers, MLS clubs don't sign players—the league does. MLS's brass is doing its best to bring in only teens with a bona fide chance of thriving on and off the field. "We have more control," says deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis. "Our teams are not falling all over each other to get into the teenage market."

All the chosen ones possess an innate ability to attack, score and, ultimately, put people in the stands. "It's something we consciously look for," says Gazidis. "A player who has magic in his feet, you can't teach that." Which is in part why D.C.—with Quaranta, Convey and their magic feet—led MLS in road attendance through Sunday, despite its 6-12-2 record.

By the time he was a sophomore at Archbishop Curley Prep, Quaranta had caught the attention of scouts from the U.S. Soccer Federation, which footed the bill to move him to Bradenton, Fla., where he trained with the rest of the national Under-17 team. Quaranta and his 17 teammates went to school every morning, practiced every afternoon and did their homework every evening, all the while living at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy. Such soccer acade-

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mies are commonplace in England: Quaranta's favorite player, striker Michael Owen, began his apprenticeship with Liverpool at age 11 and was in that club's academy by the time he was 14. What's more, it's hard to argue with the results. The second American U-17 team to pass through the academy finished fourth in the 1999 world championship, with Donovan winning the Gold Ball as the tournament's MVP and Beasley receiving the Silver Ball as the second leading scorer in the tournament.

Being a 15-year-old living away from home wasn't always easy for Quaranta. "When you're there, you think, What am I doing here? I want to be a normal teenager, go to school with my friends," he says. "You wonder if what you are doing is worth it. It was for me."

That was because he shone on the field: Quaranta had 23 goals and 22 assists in 51 games. He signed with MLS in January 2001, and one month later United chose him with the eighth pick in the draft. Being selected by D.C. has allowed Quaranta to live with his family in Baltimore. MLS has tried to ensure suitable living arrangements for other teens who have moved from home. When Convey, a Philadelphian, joined the league in 2000, he lived with Kevin Payne, United's CEO and general manager. Johnson, a rookie from Palm Coast, Fla., lives with Burn assistant coach Brian Haynes.

While living in familiar surroundings, Quaranta could focus on the prospect of playing alongside men twice his age. "I was worried," he says. "I didn't have a clue what to expect. How were the guys going to treat me? Were they going to accept me?" Quaranta got his answer after his first practice. As he stood at his locker conducting an interview, Ammann took a coffee filter, filled it with shaving cream and tossed the makeshift pie in his face. Quaranta went along with the gag, which endeared him to the veterans.

"He gravitates to the older guys because they want to teach him the ropes, and he's eager to learn," says Rongen. On the road Quaranta no longer rooms with Convey, recently sharing quarters with Abdul Thompson Conteh, a



San Jose's Donovan (10) and Chicago's Beasley starred for the U.S. Under-17 team, and Convey (15) is D.C.'s second teenage force.

31-year-old forward from Sierra Leone. In May the older guys went to bat for Quaranta when he wanted to go to his girlfriend's junior prom, which was scheduled the night before a road game. After defender Eddie Pope explained the significance of that night for 16-year-old American boys, Rongen gave Quaranta the go-ahead. Quaranta had a blast, caught a plane at nine the next morning, reached Columbus, Ohio, in time for the pregame meal and scored his first MLS goal.

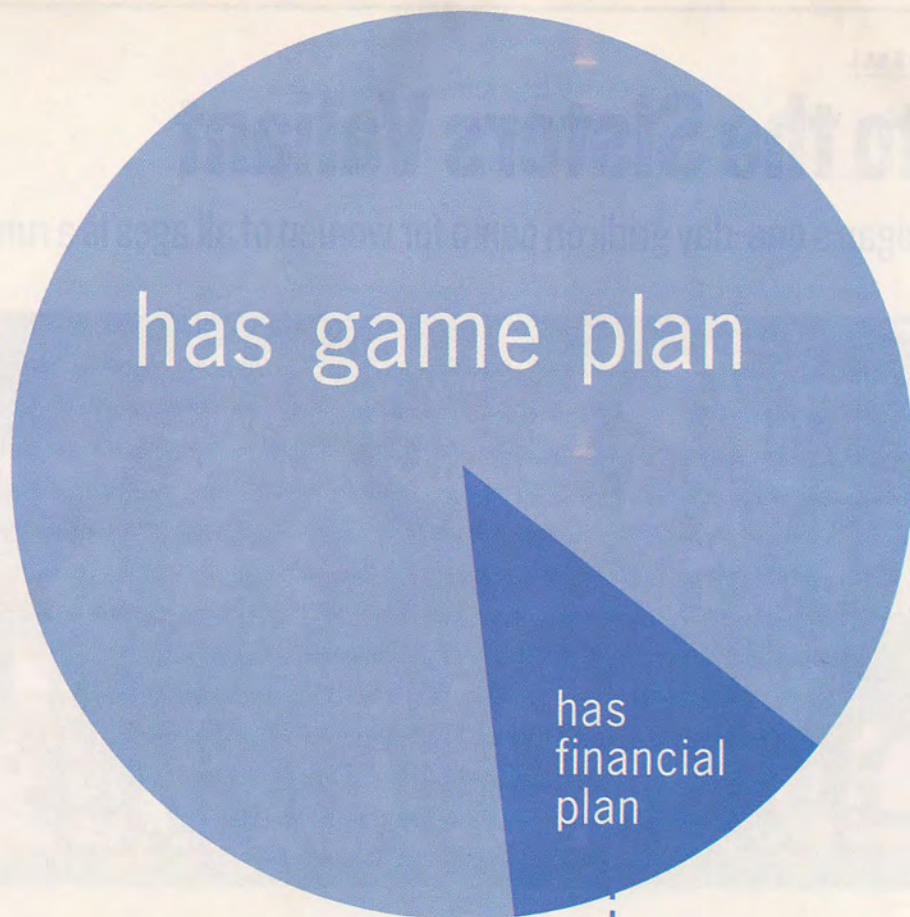
Although Quaranta's transition has been seemingly smooth, Rongen can't help but wait for the other boot to drop. "We'll ruin him in two years," he says with a chuckle. "When they're young, they're naive, and when they're naive, they're honest, and

when they're honest, they just play because they love the game. I'm sure we'll screw him up somehow. He comes in with a smile on his face every day—win, lose or draw—because it hasn't dawned on him that this is his job. You wish that innocence could stay with those players, but we would be fools to think it will."

For now, though, Quaranta is only a kid, well-adjusted but blissfully ignorant of the significance of his accomplishments.

His typical day entails sleeping as late as possible, going to practice, seeing his tutor, getting back to Baltimore around supper time and hanging out with friends at night. (Although he doesn't attend classes, Quaranta is on pace to earn his diploma from Archbishop Curley next year, and Project-40, a development program funded by MLS, Nike and U.S. Soccer, will give him \$37,500 toward his education.) He's in no hurry to grow up, and why should he be? He earns between \$25,000 and \$50,000, dines on home-cooked meals and has no chores to speak of other than to set up and score goals.

His teammates aren't too keen to see Quaranta age quickly, either. "He adds a lot of excitement because he's so enthusiastic," says Ammann. "It helps us remember our youth. It's a great experience for him—and for us older guys." □



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hail to the Sisters Valiant

Michigan's one-day gridiron camp for women of all ages is a runaway success



BY KELLI ANDERSON

IT'S LATE in the day, and the pressure is on. Michigan offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Stan Parrish fixes me with a flinty eye and says, "If you get your hands on the ball, don't drop it!"

I have no such intention. As one of 600 attendees at the third annual Michigan Women's Football Academy, I know that "it's better to have died as a small boy than to fumble the football," as John Heisman once told his teams and as Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr has told us. Although I went to school in California, I understand that it is a rare honor to play in 110,000-seat Michigan Stadium—known in Ann Arbor as the Big House—and rarer still to be glorified up on the Jumbotron. That is my goal and the goal of all my fellow campmates, most of whom are die-hard Wolverines fans whose ages and football knowledge run the gamut.

When Carr thought up this one-day women's football camp several years ago to raise money for the university's cancer center, he assumed it would be a one-time

event that would draw 75 participants, tops. "I never dreamed it would be something people would get so excited about," says Carr, whose 10 assistant coaches, as well as 20 players and countless support staffers, volunteer their time to put on the camp. Participants pay \$75 apiece. For that, each camper gets to participate in morning drills on the basics of the game and in an afternoon scrimmage. "A lot of these women now want an advanced class," says Carr.

Last year, Parrish says in a voice tinged with both disappointment and warning, his group "fell apart" under the pressure of playing in the Big House. He vows that our group—we are divided into 10 units of 50-plus each—will do better. We have a lot to learn, including the center-quarterback exchange (Parrish has devised a fingernail-safe version); the five pressure points (web of fingers, palm of hand, forearm, pit of elbow and rib cage) every running back needs to know to carry the ball properly; and the stance, footwork and hand posi-

tion required for proper pass protection. "The important thing is to play with a base," offensive line coach Terry Malone tells us.

After we shuffle through agility drills, suffer the pain of the defensive stance and try booting the ball under the tutelage of Wolverines senior kicker-punter Hayden

Epstein, it's time for lunch. After that we make our entrance into the Big House. We charge through the tunnel as *Hail to the Victors* blasts from the P.A. system, sending the Michigan fans among us into rapture. Then announcer Howard King booms out that we're "all starters and all winners."


Parrish splits my unit into five subgroups of 11 and gives each subgroup one run-through of three offensive

plays. We'll be running them at the 20-yard line against a group coached by defensive coordinator Jim Hermann, while other groups scrimmage on other parts of the field. My side is confident. In practice we have executed all our plays, including a short pass to me. No problem.

"A lot of these women now want an advanced class," says Carr (above, center).

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"So, Coach, is this touch?" asks one of my teammates, though we have neither helmets nor pads. No comment. Tackling was one drill conspicuously absent from the morning session, but it's clear that a few campers are familiar with pancaking and dog-piling. On our first down Hermann's team is called off-side when their noseguard plows into center Caren Stalburg, an Ann Arbor ob-gyn who can recite stats from the first Michigan game she attended, in 1984. On the second try Stalburg and quarterback Tamara Stein, an anatomy professor at Michigan's medical school, fumble the exchange, and the defensive line flattens them.

Parrish calls a "right left bomb"—to me. I'm the wide receiver on the left. "This will be great, six points," he says. That's when he warns me not to drop the ball.

On "hut" I shed my defensive back, sprint to the end zone and turn, only to see the ball squirt 10 feet into the air before falling like a dying duck back at the 20. While I was running my pattern, Stalburg drove the noseguard—Coach Hermann's wife, Ann—back several yards. The rest of

42-year-old mother of two, is having a banner day. Bald from the treatment for the ovarian cancer she's been battling since January, she hogs the Jumbotron by passing for one score and running 50 yards for another. "This has been so much fun, and what a great cause," says Turner, "and I learned a

Coach Parrish has devised a fingernail-safe version of the center-quarterback exchange.

our offensive line, however, was no match for the blitz, which left Stein flat on her back once more. Our fellow campers on the sideline can see we aren't playing with a base.

Elsewhere on the field, though, there is brilliance. Quarterback Kim Turner, a

lot, like how important the offensive line is."

I nod appreciatively and ask her if scoring a touchdown on this hallowed field was the biggest thrill of her life. "Well, no, actually," she says, dropping her voice. "Don't tell anyone, but I went to Michigan State." □

Books / by Charles Hirshberg

A scrambling par for the old pro and a kick-in birdie for the rookie

THE MONEY-WHIPPED STEER-JOB THREE-JACK GIVE-UP ARTIST

by Dan Jenkins / Doubleday, \$24.95

THE PRO

by Mike Shropshire / Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Press, \$23.95

IF YOU let them, many golfers will tell you that theirs is the most poetic sport on earth. However, when it comes to the books of summer, baseball rules the reading rack. There's little in the literature of the links to rival novels such as Bernard Malamud's *The Natural* and Mark Harris's *Bang the Drum Slowly*. On the other hand, when August rolls around, who wants to read a great American novel? Better to collapse into a deck chair, slather yourself with SPF 2000 and devour a decadent golf yarn full of off-color wit, unorthodox sexual conquests and lots and lots of tee shots.

It was Jenkins's 1974 tale, *Dead Solid Perfect*, that established the genre: A profane but likable golfer hacks his way through the PGA Tour and into our hearts. In his latest opus Jenkins chronicles the odyssey of Bobby Joe Grooves, a throwback who refers to women as "shapely adorables" and children as "unruly little s---s" and whose impression of Manhattan's Central Park is that "some areas would have made good golf holes." He is not an attractive protagonist, but you'll root for him anyway because he is by far the most appealing guy on the Tour. Will the hitherto

mediocre Grooves snag a berth on the Ryder Cup team and triumph over his arrogant nemesis, Swedish golfer Nuke Thorsson? As Grooves himself might say, it'll cost you 20 bucks to find out.

There's another option this summer for Jenkins fans: Shropshire's story of the profane but likable Del Bonnet, who leaves his job as a golf pro at the Caloosahatchee Pines Country Club to hack his way through the Senior tour and into our hearts. Will the hitherto hapless Bonnet snag a berth at the Senior Open and face down his arrogant nemesis, Bruno Pratt?

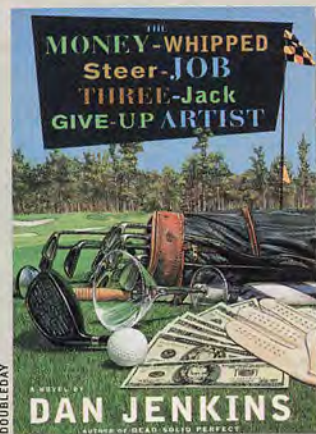
Shropshire's publisher's blurb makes no bones about what he's trying to do: "capture the essence of acclaimed writer Dan Jen-

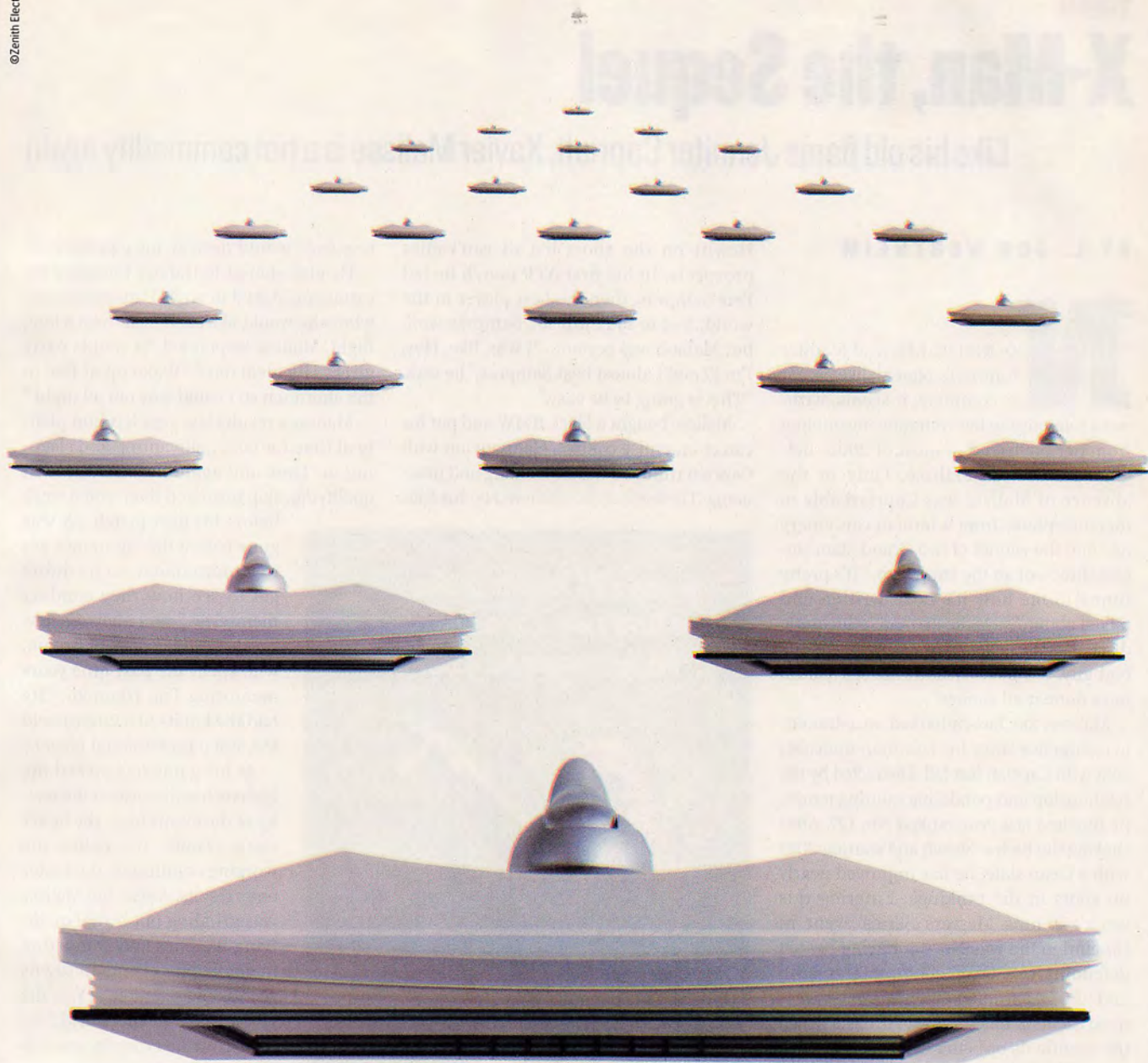
kins." So the question is, who is a better Dan Jenkins, Shropshire or Jenkins himself? The choice is yours.

It's close, but at least for me Shropshire leads by a couple of strokes, primarily because Del Bonnet is a little less predictable than Bobby Joe Grooves. For instance, when Grooves admires a shapely adorable, he does little more than slobber over the quality of her "rack." Bonnet is more discerning. His girlfriend's nose, he says, looks just like the noses on "those four-thousand-year-

old Greek statues where there is no nose because it has eroded away, but what the nose would look like if it was still there. You know what I mean." Moreover, Grooves emits an unending stream of ethnic gibes that not everyone will find hilarious.

These books may not be poetry, but like golf itself, they offer plenty of fun on a hot summer day. □





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TENNIS

X-Man, the Sequel

Like his old flame Jennifer Capriati, Xavier Malisse is a hot commodity again

BY L. JON WERTHEIM

NO RETELLING of Jennifer Capriati's phoenixlike ascent is complete, it seems, without a reference to her romantic uncoupling from her boyfriend of most of 2000, Belgian pro Xavier Malisse. Only in the absence of Malisse was Capriati able to metamorphose from a human cautionary tale into the winner of two Grand Slam singles titles—or so the stories go. "It's pretty funny to me how it's been written and talked about," says the ex-man, reluctantly discussing his least favorite topic. "I'm the bad guy. It's like, without me she would have done it all sooner."

Malisse, too, has embarked on a dramatic resurgence since his less-than-amicable split with Capriati last fall. Distracted by the relationship and pondering quitting tennis, he finished last year ranked No. 127. After shaking the Etch-a-Sketch and starting 2001 with a clean slate, he has improved nearly 90 spots in the rankings. Entering this week's Tennis Masters Series event in Cincinnati, he was No. 44, having beaten defending U.S. Open champ Marat Safin and 2001 Australian Open runner-up Arnaud Clement this summer. He has reached the semifinals or better at four events this year and is a dark horse for the U.S. Open, which begins on Aug. 27. "I'm only 21," he says in flawless English, "but it's like I've had two careers already."

Malisse plays effortless tennis. He has a forehand capable of leaving exit wounds and, befitting the son of a butcher, also deploys a deft slice to break up rallies. Because of his power and variety from the backcourt, he is a favorite practice partner of Andre Agassi's. "He's a great striker of the ball," says Agassi. "He's starting to keep it together in his head and put together some good wins. I consider him a real threat."

When he turned pro in 1998 at age 17, Malisse accompanied Safin and Lleyton

Hewitt on the short list of can't-miss prospects. In his first ATP match he led Pete Sampras, then the best player in the world, 5-4 in the third set. Sampras won, but Malisse was ecstatic. "I was, like, Hey, I'm 17 and I almost beat Sampras," he says. "This is going to be easy."

Malisse bought a black BMW and put his career on cruise control. Hanging out with Capriati trumped fitness training and practicing. The ketchup he slathered on his fries

tesy car—would destroy his equilibrium.

He also shared Rodman's fondness for carousing. Asked in an ATP questionnaire whom he would like to sit next to on a long flight, Malisse responded, "A coupla party girls." His ideal day? "Wake up at five in the afternoon so I could stay out all night."

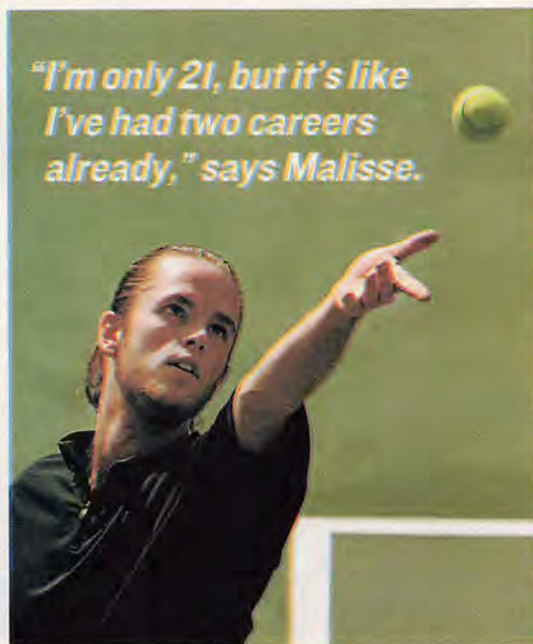
Malisse's results last year left him plenty of time for both gallivanting and sleeping in. Time and again he would lose in qualifying, skip town and then wait a week

before his next match. "X was gone before the big names got to a tournament, so he didn't get to see how they conduct themselves," says Malisse's new coach, David Felgate of Britain, who spent the past nine years mentoring Tim Henman. "He had the habits of a 20-year-old kid, not a professional player."

As his game has picked up, Malisse has discovered the reality of the tennis tour: the better one's results, the better the working conditions, the better one's results. A year ago Malisse was grinding out brutal qualifying matches and competing in challenger events in towns such as Binghamton, N.Y.—"the worst place in the world," he says. Now he typically stays in four-star hotels, gets massages

after his matches and revels in his star perks. Last month, for instance, while in Los Angeles for an ATP tournament, he accepted a morning invitation to the Playboy Mansion. ("All the girls were asleep," he says.)

His romantic life has rebounded as well. Malisse's new steady is Katie Castermans, who works in the fashion industry in Belgium and gave him the silver ring he wears on the middle finger of his left hand. He calls and e-mails her from the road, but this time, he vows, his love life won't disrupt his career. "I've been a pro three years," he says. "But I'm just now figuring out what 'being a pro' really means." □



was his lone vegetable, and he perfected his between-the-legs shot at the expense of his second serve. He also spent hours tinkering with new hairstyles and colorings. "I wanted to be like Dennis Rodman," he says sheepishly. "It was just a phase."

His similarities to the Worm extended to a highly combustible temper. At a junior event in Belgium, Malisse reacted to a questionable line call by wheeling the umpire's chair onto the court. "It wouldn't have been so bad if the umpire wasn't still in it," he says. "I was defaulted for that." The slightest dissonance—a bad draw, a missed forehand, even a late-arriving cour-



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Faces in the Crowd



Allyson Felix, SANTA CLARITA, CALIF.

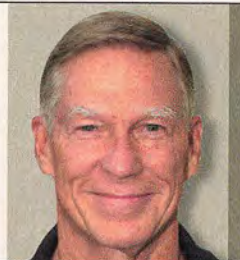
Track and Field

Allyson, 15, won the gold medal in the 100 meters and was a member of the world-record-setting U.S. girls' sprint medley relay team at the World Youth Championships. Last spring she was also the California girls' high school champion in the 100 while competing for Los Angeles's Baptist High.

Hal Stolz, ELLIJAY, GA.

Swimming

Stolz, 66, a veterinarian, broke the Georgia 65-69 age-group record in the 200-meter breaststroke with a time of 3:26.16, surpassing by 31.29 seconds the old mark, set by his brother, Irwin, in 1998. Hal was also a member of four gold-medal-winning relay teams at the state masters' championships.



George Masin, NEW YORK CITY

Fencing

Masin, 54, a systems analyst, became the only competitor to medal in five consecutive decades after an eighth-place finish in the Division I épée competition at the summer national championships. Masin, the 1976 American épée champion, will be inducted into the Fencing Hall of Fame next year.

Carly Gullickson, BRENTWOOD, TENN.

Tennis

Carly, 14, won the girls' 18-and-under clay court national championship to become the youngest player to win the tournament since Jennifer Capriati in 1988. Carly, the daughter of former major league pitcher Bill Gullickson, lost only one set en route to the title.



Michelle Wie, HONOLULU

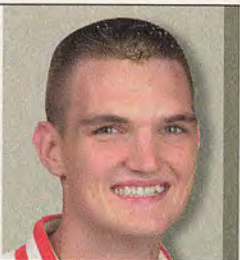
Golf

Michelle, 11, became the youngest winner of the Jennie K. Wilson Invitational, Hawaii's top women's amateur event. She shot a final-round 76 to beat 37-year-old Bobbi Kokx of Kula, Hawaii, by nine shots. She was also the first female and the youngest person ever to qualify for the Manoa Cup.

Michael Remaklus, FLORISSANT, MO.

Bowling

Remaklus, 20, won the boys' title at the Junior Gold National Championships by beating Matt Gilman, 19, of Davie, Fla., by 79 pins. Remaklus, who averaged 205 over 46 games and had a grand total of 9,452 pins for the tournament, is a two-time All-America at Central Missouri State.



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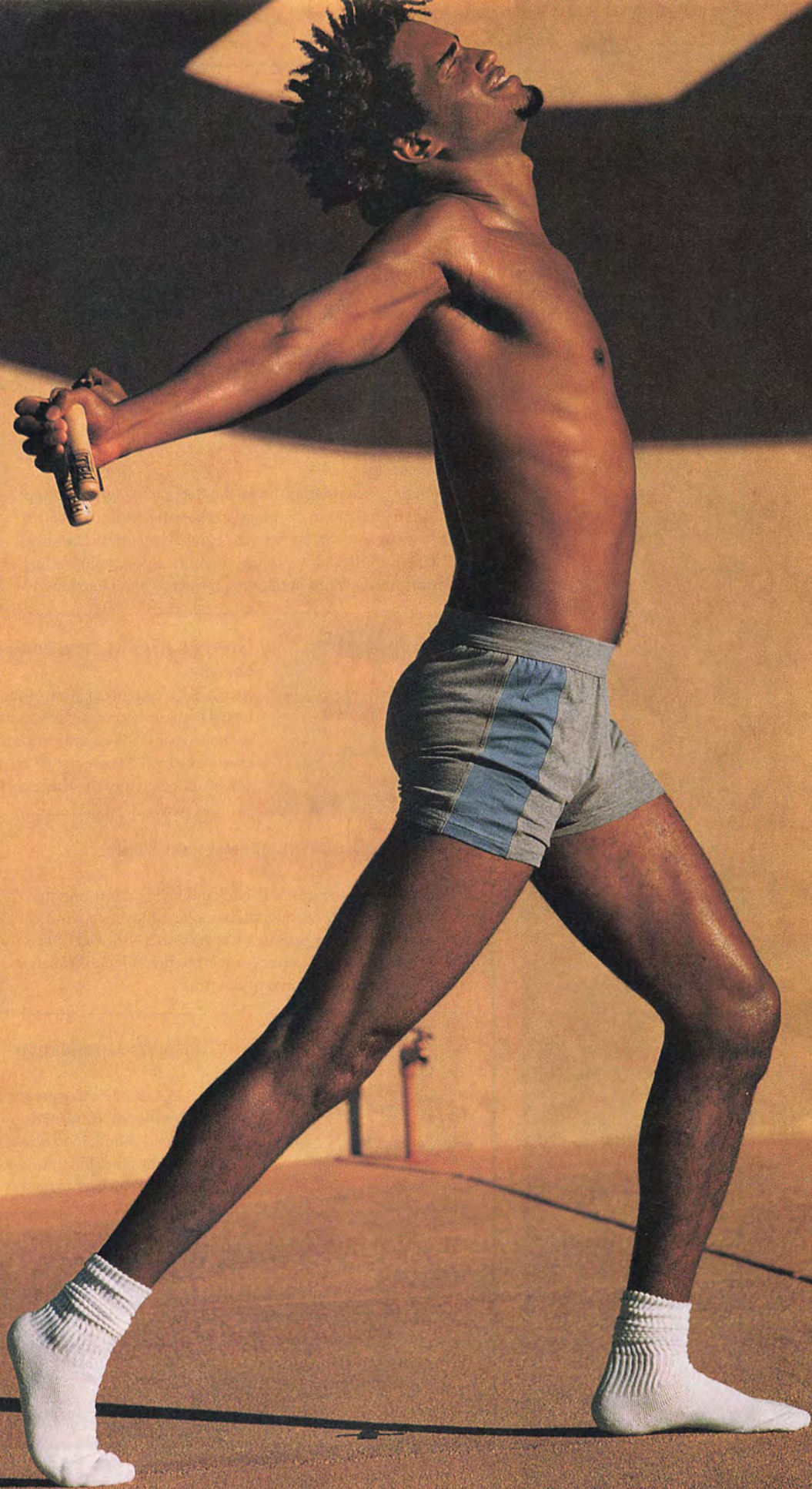
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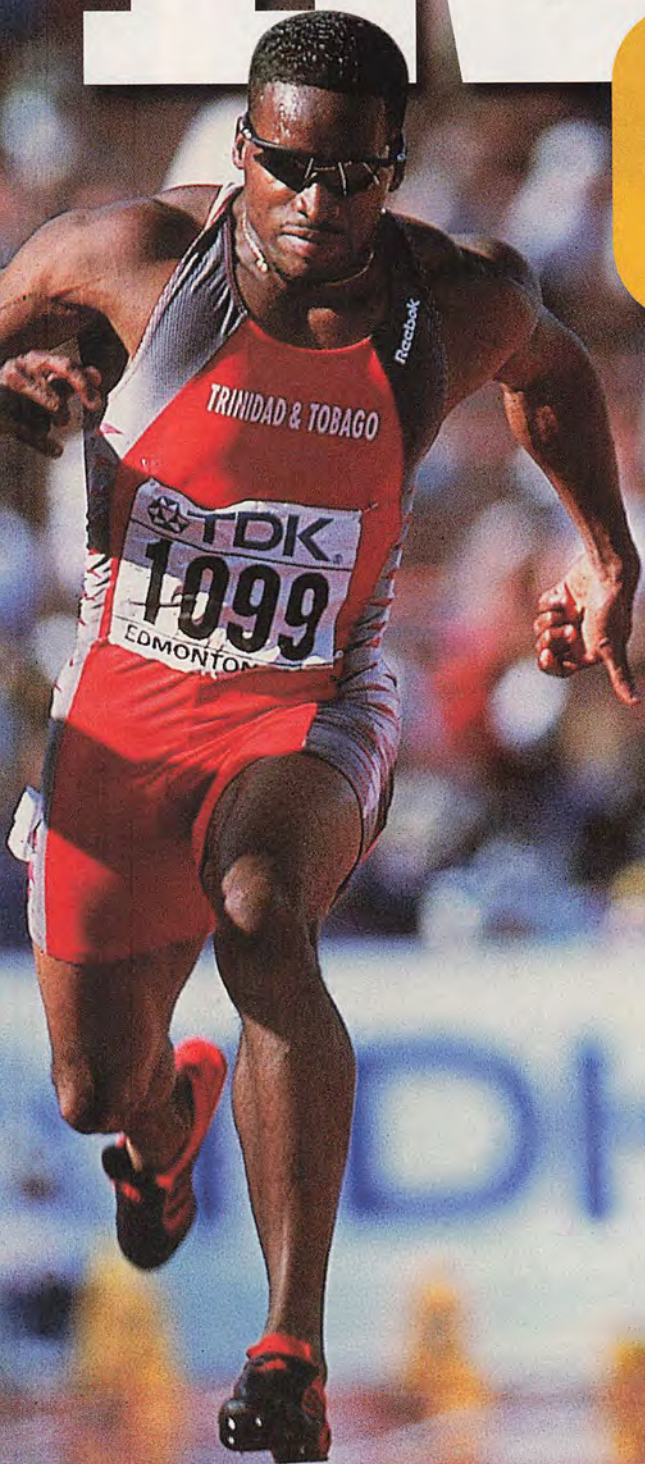
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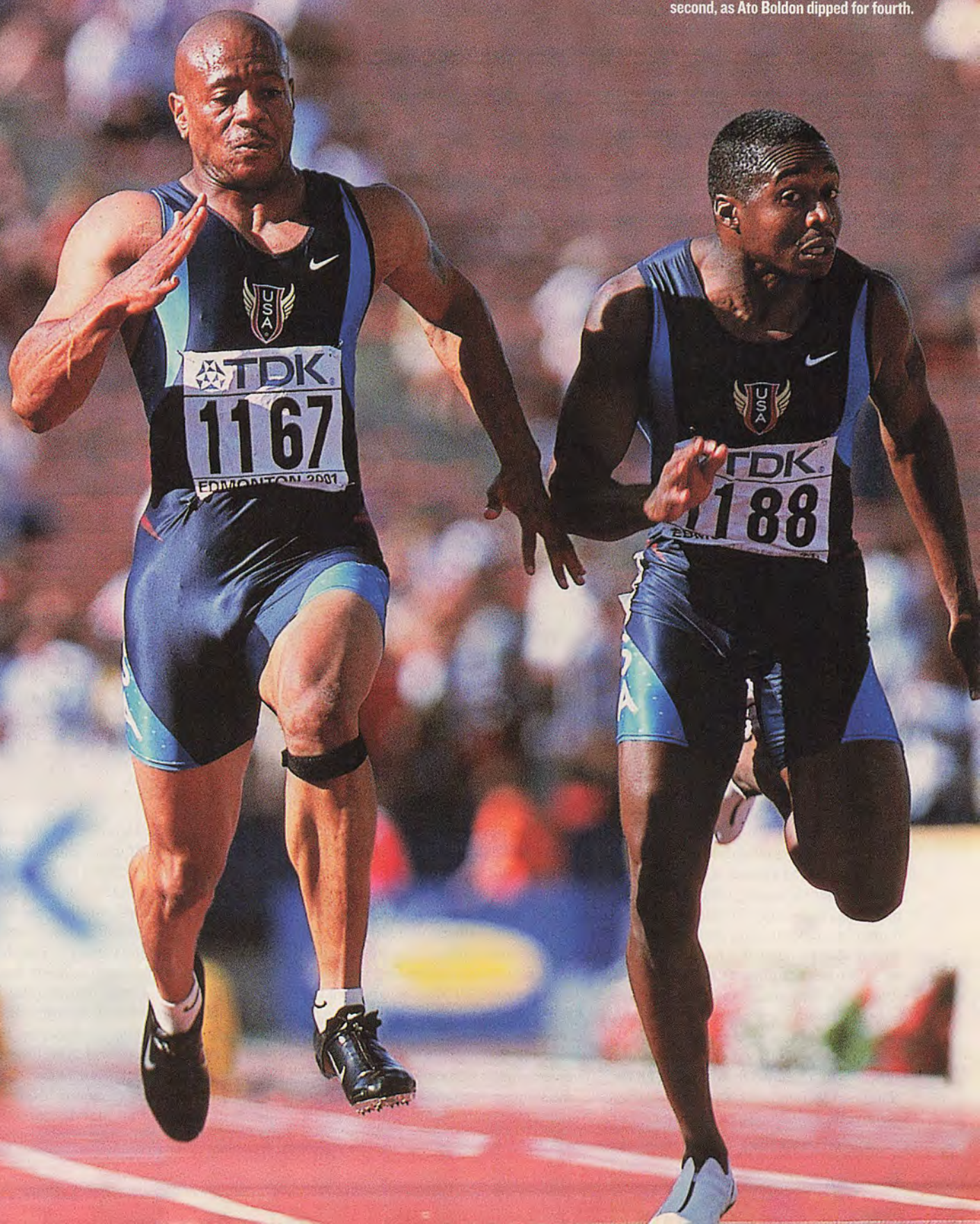


Ever Greene



Outrunning injury as well as a brilliant new challenger, **Maurice Greene** claimed a third 100-meter world title, while Marion Jones lost for the first time in four years

Line dancing Wobbling at the finish, Greene (1167) held off the lunging Montgomery (1188) by .03 of a second, as Ato Boldon dipped for fourth.



BY TIM LAYDEN

THEY MET six years ago on the eve of the Texas Relays, two fast kids with no money and big dreams, eating cheap fried chicken and biscuits together in Austin on a windy April evening and woofing about how they were going to beat Carl Lewis in the 100 meters the next day. They were 20 years old, Maurice Greene from Kansas City, Kans., and Tim Montgomery from Gaffney, S.C., callow sprinters plotting to take down the biggest name in track and field, blissfully naive and unshakably confident.

The next afternoon, Greene stunningly outran Lewis in a strongly wind-aided 9.88 seconds to give an unmistakable glimpse of the talent that would soon blossom spectacularly. "I remember Maurice throwing up after the race," says Montgomery, who finished fourth that day. In the years that followed, their careers took different paths. Greene broke the world record (running 9.79 in 1999) and won two world titles and the 2000 Olympic gold medal, thereby earning a spot on any list of the greatest sprinters. Montgomery ran fast (9.92 in 1997) but was left in Greene's slipstream.

They met again on Sunday in the final of the 100 meters at the World Track and Field Championships in Edmonton, lined up in adjacent lanes on a rust-colored track striped with late afternoon shadows. In the weeks leading to the worlds, Montgomery had become a genuine player in the sprint game, a threat to Greene's dominance, having run 9.84 last month in Oslo, the fastest time in the world this year before Edmonton. "I know I'm faster than Maurice," Montgomery said before the final. "I know my time is coming." He talked of a 9.75.

The matchup gave the meet a needed jolt. Last weekend's events at the first world championships staged in North America played to a half-empty Commonwealth Stadium (capacity 40,000), and yet another doping scandal hung over the proceedings, as 5,000-meter runner Olga Yegorova of Russia was suspended and then reinstated over a positive test for the banned—and popular—hormone erythropoietin (EPO).

Monday evening brought a far greater shock, when 2000 Olympic 100-meter champion Marion Jones, winner of 42 consecutive finals and undefeated since 1997 in

the 100, was beaten by Zhanna Pintusevich-Block of Ukraine in one of the biggest upsets in track and field history. Jones's dominance of the 100 was best measured by the margin of her Sydney victory, .37 of a second, the widest such spread in 48 years. Women's sprinting had become her playground, and defeat seemed unthinkable.

However, in 2001 Jones, weary from her Olympic campaign and going through a divorce from husband C.J. Hunter, had appeared a little less invincible. Her best 100 had been 10.84, well off her best of 10.65.

After surprising Jones in the semifinals Monday afternoon, Pintusevich-Block beat

her out of the blocks in the final. Jones closed but lacked her usual killing finish. At the end Jones staggered forward in a desperate lean, but Pintusevich-Block, a finger raised in triumph, was the clear winner, in a personal best of 10.82. It was a particularly delicious victory, given that Pintusevich-Block had been narrowly beaten by Jones in the 1997 worlds final in Athens. As in Edmonton, Pintusevich-Block had celebrated, thinking she had won, but her exultation was short-lived. "I've dreamed about this for four years," she said.

"I didn't come here expecting to lose," a shocked Jones said on Monday evening,





Lean times
Pintusevich-Block
(left), a narrow loser
to Jones in the 1997
worlds, redeemed
herself, winning in a
personal-best 10.82.

"but Zhanna was the better sprinter tonight. People get beat sometimes. It shows you're a champion when you can come back." She gets that chance on Friday, when in all likelihood she will run in the 200-meter final.

Barely 24 hours earlier, Montgomery spoke prophetically when he eyeballed Greene on the track moments before the start of the 100 and said, "Let's give these people what they came for."

"Let's do it," said Greene.

The race was delayed by three false starts, the last charged to Montgomery, who flinched before the gun. ("He moved; they called it correctly," said his coach, Trevor

Graham.) It was a costly jump. Montgomery knows that it's nearly impossible to run down Greene without being very close to him at the start. Because a second false start would have meant disqualification, Montgomery had to sit back, spotting Greene .025 of a second out of the blocks, according to official reaction times. Forty meters out, Greene led Montgomery by a stride.

However, a good start might not have mattered for Montgomery. As Greene's coach, John Smith, watched him preparing on the warmup track before the final, Smith whispered to Greene's manager, Emanuel Hudson, "He's somewhere else today, in

another dimension." Despite tendinitis in his left knee, Greene said later, "I've never felt better before a race in my life."

Montgomery, though, bit into Greene's lead after the halfway point, and in the final strides, Greene began to pull up, grimacing. The two hit the line awkwardly—Greene leaning back to take pressure off his cramping left quadriceps and hamstring, Montgomery bobbing, trying to win with a lean. He missed by a tiny margin. Greene won in 9.82 seconds, the third-fastest time in history (he also has the first two) and the fastest ever run into a headwind (0.2 of a meter per second, a light breeze). Montgomery was timed in 9.85, while Bernard Williams, in 9.94, completed the first U.S. 100-meter world championships sweep in a decade. Five runners broke 10 seconds into the wind, making this race comparable to the epic 1991 worlds final, in which six runners went under 10 with a tailwind.

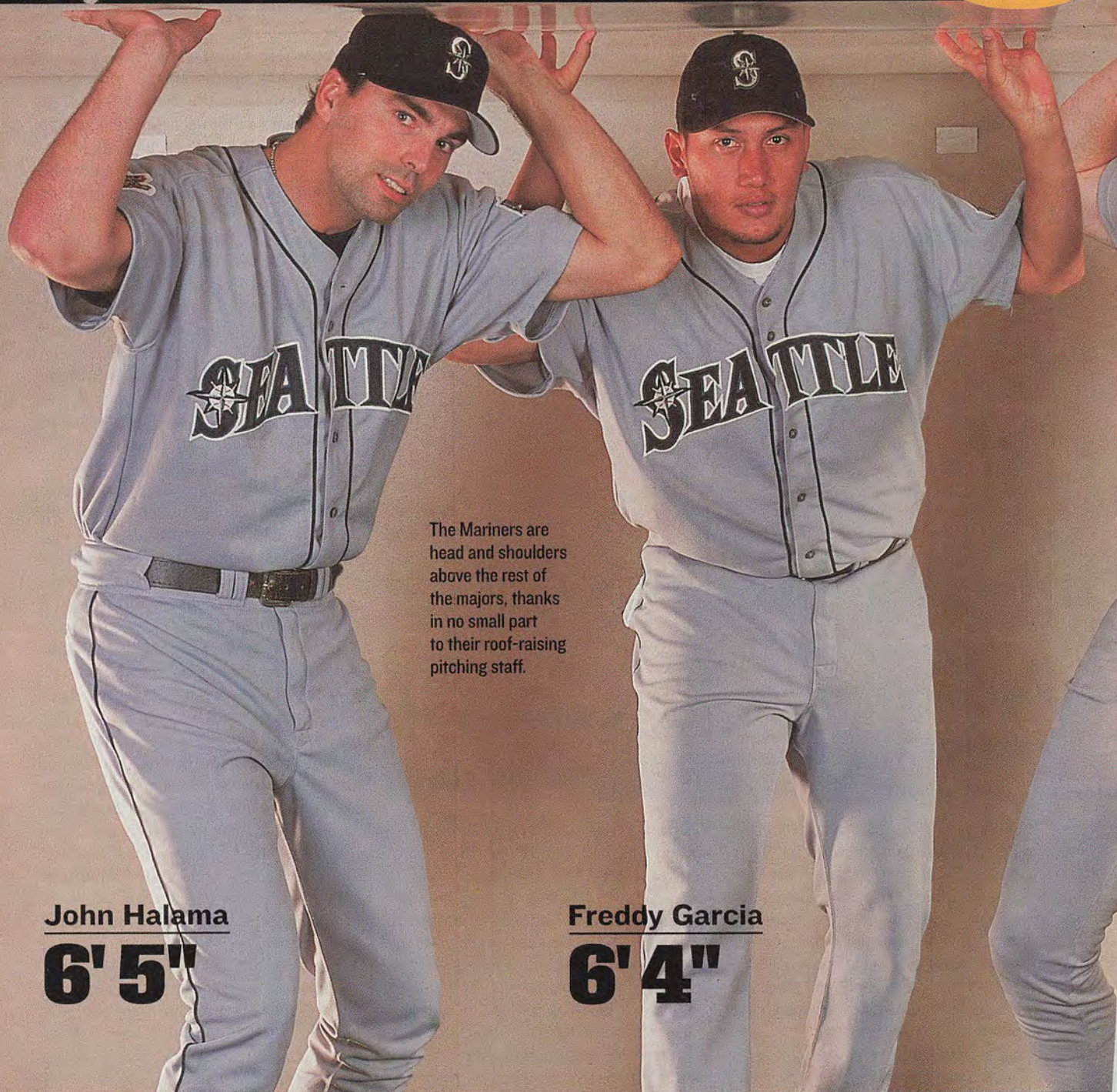
After revealing that his leg had cramped "in the final 10 or 15 meters," Greene watched a tape of the race with training partner Larry Wade, and both agreed that Greene had begun to wobble at least 40 meters from the finish. "That was a 9.77 race if I didn't get hurt," said Greene.

Montgomery's camp bemoaned the false start. "If he had gotten a better start, Tim would have broken the world record," said Graham. Said Montgomery, "The start cost me the race." Greene dismissed their comments. "Tim's a great competitor," he said, "but I was going to win this race, period."

Later, Montgomery's agent, Charlie Wells, sounded like a European railroad conductor as he listed his man's upcoming schedule: "Zurich, Gateshead, Brussels . . .," throwing down the gauntlet to Greene who, alas, might be finished for the year. (On Sunday evening Greene said he was withdrawing from the 200 and the 4 × 100 relay in Edmonton.) No matter, the battle is alive. After two years with Graham, who also trains Jones, Montgomery has gone from a 140-pound pop-up starter to a 170-pound low-driving power runner. "I'm going to keep getting better," he said. "Whenever Maurice wants to race me again, I'll be ready."

Greene is content to nurse his injuries and to savor his most hard-earned title. Late on Sunday night he lounged in his hotel suite, where a bottle of champagne sat unopened on ice and his gold medal lay on the table. "When there are bigger obstacles in your way," he said, "it's a whole different feeling when you win." □

The Height



The Mariners are head and shoulders above the rest of the majors, thanks in no small part to their roof-raising pitching staff.

John Halama

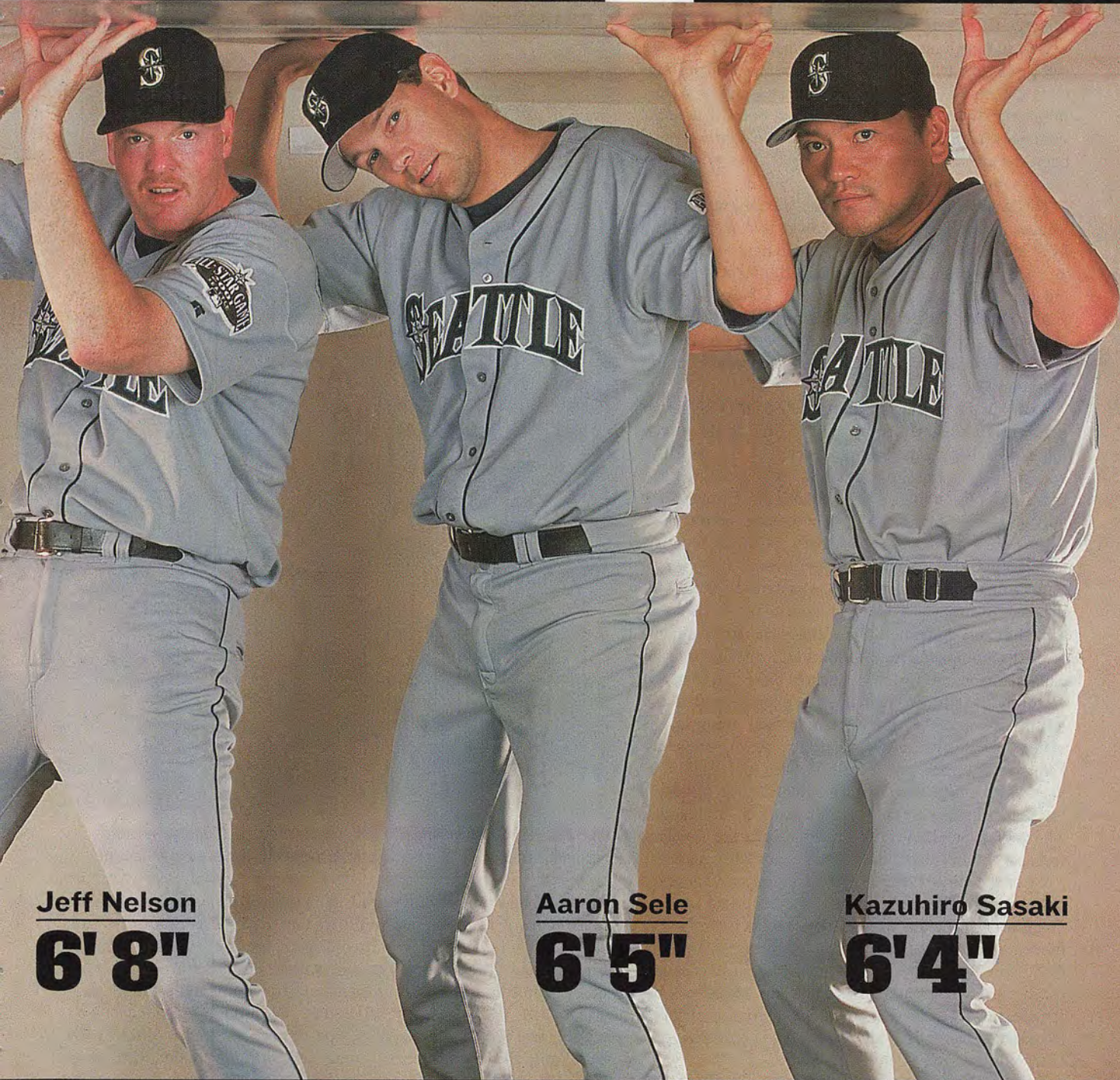
6' 5"

Freddy Garcia

6' 4"

Major league scouts and general managers are panting over very

Int Report



Jeff Nelson

6' 8"

Aaron Sele

6' 5"

Kazuhiro Sasaki

6' 4"

tall pitchers, because they believe that, indeed, bigger is better

BY E.M. SWIFT

A NEW BREED of pitchers, long of shank and high of pocket, is beginning to cast a far-reaching shadow over baseball's landscape like stalks of genetically modified corn. We speak, of course, of tall pitchers, those high-kicking, sun-blocking chuckers who may ultimately redefine the most important position in the game.

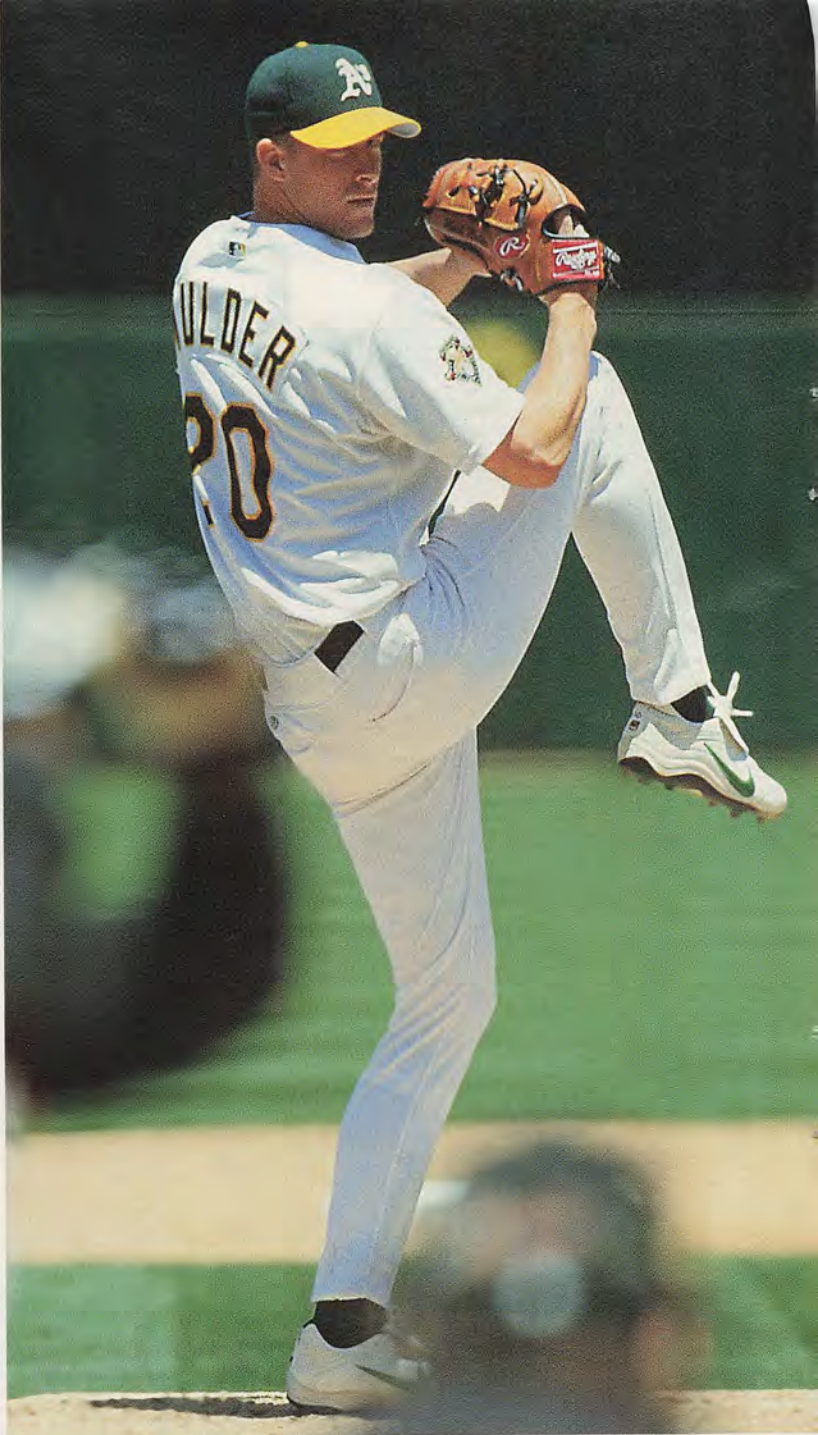
It wasn't too long ago that Jim Palmer, a willowy 6' 3", was considered tall for a pitcher. The average Hall of Fame pitcher stands 6' 1", the height of such legends as Walter Johnson, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Bob Gibson and Tom Seaver. Don Drysdale, who has the distinction of being the tallest pitcher inducted, at 6' 6", was so outsized that his nickname was Big D.

That was 40 years ago. If Drysdale were to enter the big leagues today, he'd answer to Average D. A recent study by Stats Inc. found that of the 1,532 pitchers who worked in the big leagues from 1990 through 2000, 214 were 6' 5" or taller, nearly twice the number (108) of those who stood less than 6 feet. The trend is accelerating. Among the top 18 picks in this year's draft, six were pitchers who are 6' 5" or taller. Last year two 6' 7" pitchers were drafted in the first round.

As of Sunday there were 45 pitchers 6' 5" or bigger on major league rosters, led by the Big Unit, 6' 10" Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks (14-5, 2.45 ERA), who for now is the top of the line. Two 6' 6" pitchers, righthander Jason Johnson of the Baltimore Orioles (9-6, 3.18) and lefthander Mark Mulder of the Oakland A's (13-6, 3.30), were third and fifth respectively in ERA in the American League. The day of the 7-foot pitcher isn't far away. A 6' 10" lefthander, 22-year-old Ryan Anderson, pitched for the Seattle Mariners' Triple A affiliate in Tacoma last season. Mariners, shmariners. They should change their name to the Brobdingnagians. Seattle's staff, which used to include Johnson, has two 6' 4" pitchers, Freddy Garcia and Kazuhiro Sasaki; two who are 6' 5", John Halama and Aaron Sele; and 6' 8" Jeff Nelson. In their minor league system, Seattle also has 6' 9" Phil Cullen, who plays basketball at Utah, and a 6' 7" Russian, Oleg (the Big O) Korneev. "I thought I was big until I stood beside Anderson last year," says 21-year-old C.C. Sabathia, a 6' 7" lefthander who through Sunday was 10-4 as a starter for the Cleveland Indians. "I think all scouts are looking for taller guys."

Given a choice between a promising big pitcher and a promising small pitcher, scouts will take the big man every time. "I know of nine clubs who tell their scouts not to bother turning in recommendations on righthanded pitchers who aren't at least 6' 2"," says Tom House, a former major league pitcher and pitching coach who is a consultant to several teams. "They see a big guy and they see raw tools. So it's a self-fulfilling prophecy that pitchers will keep getting bigger. Nobody ever got fired for drafting a 6' 5" pitcher who throws over 90 miles per hour."

So what if two of the most dominating pitchers in the game, 5' 11" Pedro Martinez and 6-foot Greg Maddux, are small (by comparison) righthanders? Or that there's little statistical evidence



The XL Files Dominating pitchers such as the A's 6' 6" Mulder and the Diamondbacks' 6' 10" Johnson look down on hitters, in more ways than one.

to show that tall pitchers are more effective than short ones? To the contrary, Stats Inc. found that with the exception of 6' 10" pitchers—a category of two players, Johnson and Eric Hillman (New York Mets, 1992-94) whose numbers are skewed by Johnson—the only three heights with winning percentages were 5' 11" (.528), 6-foot (.518) and 6' 1" (.506). The 30 pitchers who were 6' 7" had a dismal .475 percentage, the highest ERA (4.50) and the lowest save percentage (.538), and were tied with pitchers who stood 6' 5" for permitting opponents the highest batting average (.268), if you discounted the only 5' 8" pitcher, Dan Boone, who last pitched for the Orioles in '93.

While baseball's infatuation with tall pitchers may sound like malarkey, there's an explanation for the statistical superiority of the little guys. "We don't give every player the same opportunity to succeed," says 6' 6" Jim Beattie, general manager of the Montreal Expos and a former big league pitcher. "Smaller pitchers have to be very successful at every level, or they'll fail. Only the very best advance. With the bigger guys, we're more patient. The thinking is, We can't teach velocity, but we can teach the breaking ball."

Tall pitchers have science on their side. "In terms of the fundamentals of physics, teams are not wrong in drafting taller pitchers," says Paul Lagace, an MIT professor of Aeronautics, Astronautics and Engineering Systems. "Think of it in terms of a seesaw, which is a lever. If you're going to seesaw with your child, you move toward the middle—the point of rotation. Your child, who's farther out on the seesaw, will move at a faster velocity than you. The force times the distance to the point of rotation is what's important. In pitching, the point of rotation is your shoulder. So if you have a

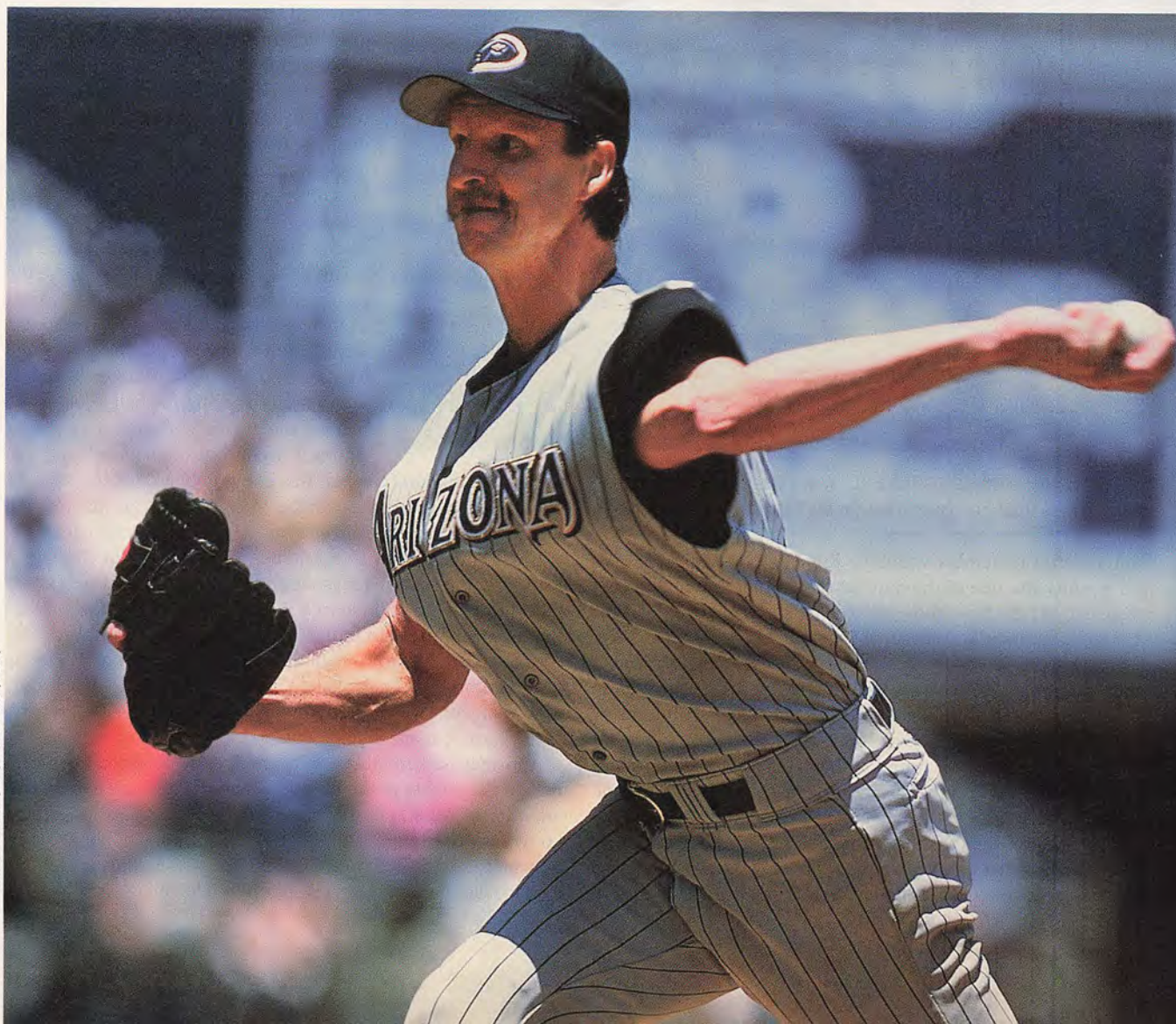
longer arm moving at the same rate of speed as a shorter arm, the ball at the point of release of the longer arm is moving faster."

The human body, in fact, can be thought of as a series of levers. Where the foot touches the rubber is, according to Lagace, one point of rotation. The shoulder is another. The hips are a third. Even the length of a pitcher's fingers can help generate greater spin on the ball. "All else being equal, a tall pitcher can produce more velocity," he says.

Of course, all else is never equal. Lagace, a Boston Red Sox fan, concedes that the 5' 11" Martinez is one of the best pitchers in the game, which he explains by pointing out that Martinez's long, flexible fingers enable him to impart tremendous spin on the ball. Cleveland's Bartolo Colon, who's 6 feet, throws 100 mph. The Houston Astros' Billy Wagner is 5' 11" and throws 98.

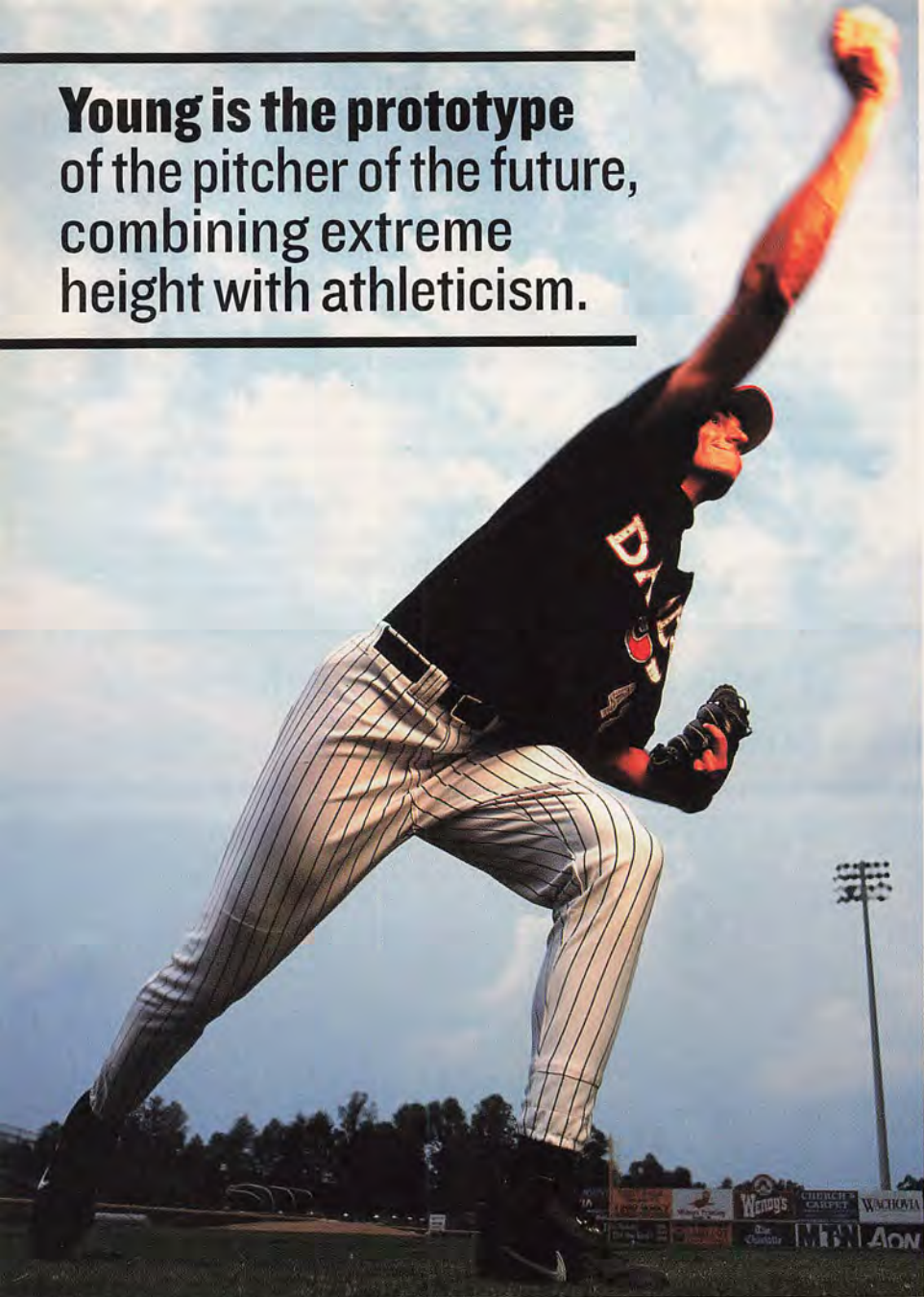
"The small muscles in the shoulder are what generate speed," says Beattie, who was one of the tallest pitchers of the 1980s but was not one of the game's hardest throwers. "Flexibility is a big

"Nine clubs tell scouts not to bother with recommendations on righthanded pitchers who aren't at least 6'2"," says House.



MICHAEL ZAGARIS (LEFT), V.J. LOVERO (RIGHT)

Young is the prototype of the pitcher of the future, combining extreme height with athleticism.



Crawdaddy longlegs The 6' 10" Young was Princeton's starting center in basketball but now pitches for the Pirates' Single A team.

component. I remember watching Ron Guidry, who was 5' 11", 160 pounds and one of the hardest throwers in baseball, being stretched by [the New York Yankees'] trainer. He could get his arm and forearm into angles that I wouldn't have dreamed of."

"Size is a predictor of where we think a guy's going to go, not a guarantee," says Mike Brown, the Indians' pitching coordinator. "The minor leagues are filled with guys who are 6' 5" but throw only 88. Besides, velocity doesn't [necessarily] get major league hitters out. Command and control and movement are all more important than pure velocity. But if everyone had the same natural ability, the taller guy would be harder to hit."

Why? Two reasons that are unrelated to pure speed. First, if his mechanics are right, a tall pitcher's release point is perhaps a foot or more closer to the plate than a short pitcher's, a distinction

that isn't picked up by the radar gun. "In the batter's eyes the ball seems to be going faster," says House. "It's on the hitter more quickly. The rule of thumb is that one foot of distance equates to three miles per hour in the hitter's eyes."

Second, the angle of the path of the ball is steeper when delivered over the top by a tall pitcher. "Those downward angles are really tough on a hitter," says Anaheim Angels hitting coach Mickey Hatcher. "When I faced [former Astros righthander] J.R. Richard, who was 6' 8", his angles and release point made it seem that he was right on top of me."

"Being higher on that mound is an advantage; no one can dispute that," says 6' 6" Ed Lynch, a former major league pitcher who's a scout for the Chicago Cubs. "You're up on that hill, pitching on a downward plane, and the steeper the angle of the ball crossing the plate, the [tougher it is for the hitter to get a bead on it]."

"To take it to an extreme," says Beattie, "it would be very, very tough to hit a pitch dropped from the top of a building."

Conversely, a ball that comes in flat, like one thrown by a pitching machine, is relatively easy for a major league hitter to zero in on, no matter how fast it travels. "Eddie Mathews used to say he could time a 747 jet going through the strike zone," says Beattie. "By the time hitters get to the big leagues, they can all hit straight gas."

Crooked gas is another matter. "All the angles change when you're hitting against a tall pitcher," says Princeton baseball coach Scott Bradley, who caught Johnson when they were both with the Mariners. "Batters aren't used to seeing the ball released 7½ feet off the ground. When I first caught Randy, I used to turn my glove over on a

low strike, thinking the ball was going to be in the dirt, and get handcuffed when it came in at the knees. Batters took that pitch all the time. The downward angle was so steep it fooled their eyes."

Chris Young, a 6' 10" righthander who played for Bradley at Princeton the past two seasons and now pitches for the Hickory (N.C.) Crawdads, a Pittsburgh Pirates Class A team, has noticed that even umpires get fooled by the angles of his pitches. "My breaking pitches start so high that sometimes an umpire gives up on them too early," says Young, who through Sunday had only nine walks in 41⅓ innings while putting together a 3-2 record. "They have to make adjustments too."

A former basketball star with the Tigers, Young is the prototype of the pitcher of the future, combining extreme height with athleticism. "Being 6' 10" is such an advantage, I almost don't know how to explain it," he says. "It's a little like being a lefty, only more so. It's a completely different look. Against me batters tend to take a lot of low strikes and chase a lot of high fastballs. I've

ORIE FOSTER

noticed that guys catching me in the bullpen for the first time usually drop a few balls at the knees because they think they're going in the dirt. I may have to work harder on my mechanics than a smaller guy, on things like my balance and timing and extending my release point, but I wouldn't trade my height for anything. I know all that work will be worth it."

In April 2000 Bradley took Young and a few Princeton teammates to Philadelphia when the Diamondbacks were playing the Phillies so they could meet Johnson. "Randy knew Chris pitched, saw his size and took him aside and talked to him about how important it was to understand his mechanics," Bradley says. "When you're as tall as they are, any tiny variation—in the angle of the arm, the release point, the tempo—leads to a big variation 60 feet away. Randy wasn't the pitcher he is today when he came to Seattle [in 1989]. It took him a long time to understand his delivery.

Everything he does now is more controlled and at a slower tempo."

After five years in the majors Johnson's record was 49–48, largely because of seasons like the one he had in 1991, when he walked 152 batters in 201 innings. "Once in a while, when he was 3 and 0 on a hitter, he'd let loose a 98 mile per hour fastball [so wild] I couldn't catch it," says Bradley. "I'd go out and ask if he did it on purpose, and he'd sort of smile and say it slipped. But it was important for hitters to see that pitch every so often. If you're a lefthanded batter facing Randy [whose delivery is either three quarters or sidearm], it can't be a comfortable feeling. The ball always starts behind you. There's a lot of trust involved that he knows where it's going."

"Most taller pitchers were not successful at a young age," says Toronto Blue Jays vice president Tim Wilken. "Johnson, Richard, Nelson, Steve Carlton [6' 3"]. They take longer learning to control their delivery because they have more room for error."

Tall of Fame

THE ROLL CALL of great tall pitchers is, in a word, short. Only one pitcher 6' 6" or taller has been enshrined in the Hall of Fame: Don Drysdale. To honor the best of those who stood tall on the mound as well as everywhere else, here are the 10 best pitchers 6' 6" and taller.

1. **RANDY JOHNSON** (6' 10"). Start casting another plaque. A .659 lifetime winning percentage (193–100), six strikeout titles and three Cy Young Awards have the Diamondbacks lefthander Cooperstown-bound.

2. **DON DRYSDALE** (6' 6"). The righthander won a Tall Guy-record 209 games and averaged 272 innings from 1957 through '68.

3. **J.R. RICHARD** (6' 8"). Opponents batted .212 against the righthanded flamethrower during his injury-shortened 10-year career (1971 to '80). He struck out 300 batters in back-to-back seasons and had a .601 winning percentage (107–71).

4. **CHUCK FINLEY** (6' 6"). In the Tall Guy fraternity only Johnson and Drysdale have more strikeouts, and only Drysdale has more innings. The Indians lefthander has won 15 or more games seven times and 185 in his career.

5. **JOHN CANDELARIA** (6' 7"). The Candy Man was 177–122 with a 3.33 ERA for seven teams over 19 seasons, beginning in 1975. The southpaw won 20 games and the National League ERA title (2.34) for the '77 Pirates.

6. **RICK SUTCLIFFE** (6' 7"). While winning 171 games from 1976 through '94, the righthander led his league in ERA (2.96 in '82), winning percentage (.941, in his 16–1 Cy Young season for the '84 Cubs) and wins (18 in '87).

7. **BOB VEALE** (6' 6"). The lefty was a fixture in the Pittsburgh rotation from 1964 through '70, winning one strikeout title and finishing with a career record of 120–95.

8. **ANDY BENES** (6' 6"). A workhorse with a 149–134 lifetime record, the Cardinals righthander has 10 seasons with 10 or more wins, though only one with more than 15.

9. **RON REED** (6' 6"). The Andy Benes of his day, only with an NBA career (Detroit Pistons) on the side. Over 19 seasons, beginning in 1966, the righthander won more than 13 games only once in a 146–140 career.

10. **JEFF NELSON** (6' 8"). The prototypical modern setup man, Seattle's righthander had more

whiffs (630 through Sunday) and fewer hits allowed (482) than innings pitched (601) during his 10-year career.

Honorable mention: **Ewell** (the Whip) **Blackwell** (6' 6"), who had 22 of his 82 career wins in 1947, and **Steve Hamilton** (6' 7"), a reliever with a 3.05 ERA. . . . **Tim Stoddard** (6' 7"), former N.C. State basketball star who made all 485 of his appearances in relief. . . . **Johnny Gee** (6' 9"), who had an undistinguished 44-game career except for his nickname: Whiz.

—Tom Verducci



Candelaria and Richard showed that size matters.

WALTER IODOS JR. (CANDELARIA); RICHARD MAXSON

Small caveat

Even though he's only 5' 11", Martinez's long fingers give him a little bit of a big guy's advantage on the hill.



"How many 6' 7" professional golfers are there?" asks House. "The taller you are, the harder it is to master the biomechanics of pitching. A small person is more coordinated with his extremities than a big guy."

So goes the thinking, though some of those theories may have to be recast in light of the stunning success Sabathia has enjoyed this season in Cleveland. Sabathia, a 260-pound former tight end from Vallejo, Calif., who also played youth soccer, rejects the suggestion that he's less coordinated than a smaller pitcher—in his extremities or anywhere else. "He's learning at the major league level," says Brown, the Indians' pitching coordinator, "but he has the athleticism that allows him to make fundamental adjustments."

livery. If I collapse the back leg and dip down, the ball goes up, and that's when I get into trouble." He has also worked hard at holding runners on, which is a challenge for outsized pitchers. "There's no way a guy who's 6' 7" is as quick to the plate as a guy who's 5' 11"," says Mike Brown, "and if he is, he's giving up his best stuff."

"In high school I never developed a pickoff move because very few runners got on," Sabathia says. "Teams are trying to run on me, but they try to run on Johnson, too."

As in other areas, Sabathia has proved to be a quick study. He's mastered the slide step from the stretch, and in the July 18 game against the Chicago White Sox in which Sabathia got his ninth win, both Chicago runners who tried to steal on him were thrown

"Smaller pitchers have to be successful at every level, or they'll fail," says Beattie. "With bigger guys, we're patient."

After putting up mediocre numbers last year in the minors, Sabathia changed his delivery during Cleveland's winter development program, and he has been on a roll ever since. Dick Pole, the Indians' pitching coach, suggested Sabathia abbreviate his windup, so instead of lifting his hands over his head, Sabathia leaves his hands at his chest and takes a little rocker step to trigger his delivery, as Johnson does. "It's short and compact and felt comfortable the first time I tried it," says Sabathia, who believes one reason tall pitchers take longer to develop is that they're so overpowering in their youth that they don't have to master the nuances of the craft. "In high school I threw 95 percent fastballs and was blowing guys away. I used to wind up like Kevin Brown, twisting around so my back was to the plate. I didn't know where the ball was going. Then last year, when I pitched in A and AA, guys were sitting on my fastball. I had to learn how to pitch."

Sabathia mixes a changeup and slurve with a fastball that reaches 97 mph to keep hitters off balance and has shown impressive control for a young power pitcher by averaging only 2.86 walks per start. "I have more control of my body since I don't have to move around too much," he says. "The key is to stay tall during the de-

out. "Every time C.C. goes out, he gets smoother," says Cleveland manager Charlie Manuel. "He reminds me of Jim Kaat, a big guy [6' 4"] with a very compact delivery. He's got good balance and rhythm. For someone who throws 97 miles per hour, he's not a maximum effort guy."

That is the beauty of leverage: maximizing force while minimizing strain and effort. Which is why many baseball people think that tall pitchers will prove more durable over time than smaller ones. Certainly the 37-year-old Johnson (a major-league-high 259 strikeouts) shows no signs of slowing down. "You're looking for good, clean, efficient arm action," says Brown. "That's the predictor of long-term durability."

"Most old baseball guys will tell you that the model for the perfect pitcher is 6' 2" to 6' 4"," says Bradley, "but they used to say the same thing about point guards in basketball. From a coordination and agility standpoint, these big athletic kids have been doing the same things the little guys have done their whole lives, riding skateboards, playing soccer, playing golf, whatever. The big guy in basketball is saying, 'Hey, I can dribble. I can shoot the three-pointer.' The big guy in baseball is saying, 'I can pitch.'" □

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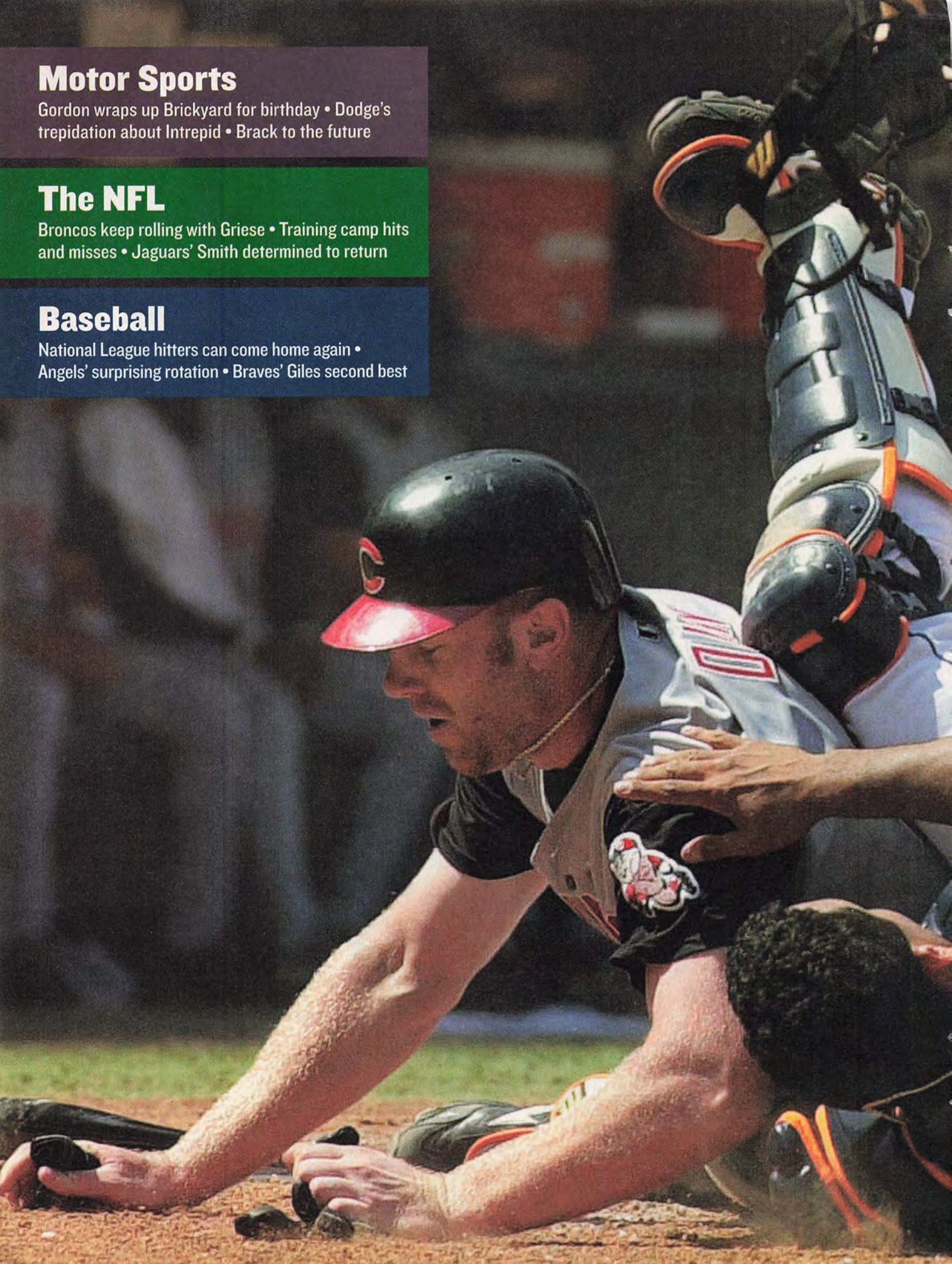
Gordon wraps up Brickyard for birthday • Dodge's trepidation about Intrepid • Brack to the future

The NFL

Broncos keep rolling with Griese • Training camp hits and misses • Jaguars' Smith determined to return

Baseball

National League hitters can come home again • Angels' surprising rotation • Braves' Giles second best





Inside

The Week in Sports

Lid lifter

The Reds' Adam Dunn bowls over Padres catcher Wiki Gonzalez to score in the fourth inning of a 10-9 Cincinnati win.

Photograph by Denis Poroy/AP



Gordon's well-timed pit stop helped him win for the third time at Indy.

Birthday Presence

Never trust anyone over 30 with your car at the Brickyard—unless it's Jeff Gordon

by Mark Bechtel

ON A ROAD leading to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, there's a Chevy billboard with Jeff Gordon's picture and the words, YOUNG GUY WITH 750-HP CARS. HOW COOL IS THAT? Ever since 1992, when he burst onto the Winston Cup scene, Gordon has cultivated a youthful image. On Saturday, however, he entered

new territory: He turned 30.

The change didn't immediately agree with Gordon. His car was awful in practice for the Brickyard 400, and his Saturday qualifying run left him 27th on the grid. Race day offered more of the same. His car handled poorly in traffic, and the tinkering of Gordon and his crew chief, Robbie Loomis, did no good. "All we need to do is

get up front," he told Loomis.

Gordon got the break he needed when a caution flag interrupted green-flag pit stops and shuffled him near the front of the pack with more than half the 160-lap race remaining. Sure enough, in the cleaner air his car handled brilliantly, and Gordon became the first driver to win three Brickyards.

While Gordon was running

away with the race in the final 15 laps, Dale Jarrett was dropping from seventh to 12th, allowing Gordon to stretch his Winston Cup lead over him to 160 points. Ricky Rudd, who came into the race in second place, finished 39th and fell to third in the standings thanks to a broken fan belt.

A fourth Winston Cup championship, which would put Gordon more than halfway to the record of seven, shared by Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty, is beginning to look inevitable. Petty's record of 200 victories (many of which were picked up when the NASCAR schedule included nearly twice as many races as it does today) is out of reach, but Gordon is more than halfway to David Pearson's total of 105, which is second to the King's. Gor-




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Despite a slow start, the Dodge team doesn't think the Intrepids (left) are the source of its woes.

trial and error, it is not fair to look at Dodge's winless streak and conclude that the fault lies with the Intrepid. The Dodge drivers combined for only one win last year, but of the five drivers who are with the same team they drove for last year, three have improved their performance. "We're trying to figure out a race car and an engine at the same time," says Andretti. "It's been a real stub-your-toe kind of thing."

Up-and-coming Ryan Newman

Driver's Ed

As heartwarming as it was to see Toronto Raptors star Vince Carter get his diploma from North Carolina in May, does anyone really think that his knowledge of African-American studies—his major—is going to advance his career? Had he received a degree in Knocking Down the J, that would have been a different story.

It would have been like the story of Ryan Newman, a gifted driver who was awarded a degree in vehicular structure engineer-

don doesn't look too far ahead; he's still trying to enjoy the present—and his presents, which included a Ferrari arcade game. "I try to live in the moment and enjoy as much of my life as I can," he says. "I'm just trying to get through age 30. [On Saturday] people thought 30 was wearing on me, but hopefully [it] means I'm coming into my prime."

Dodge's Winless Streak

Sink the Intrepid?

On a Saturday afternoon in February, Stacy Compton was standing on the 3rd hole at LPGA International in Daytona Beach when he sensed an opportunity. A few hours earlier he had qualified third for the Daytona 500, and now his crew chief, Chad Knaus, was calling Compton's cell phone to assure him that all was well. Compton, however, told his playing partner, Mark Melting, a different story.

As the owner of the number 92 car, Melting is Compton's boss. As a co-owner of Treetop Golf Resort in Gaylord, Mich., he has developed into a golfer with a single-digit handicap. Compton, on the other hand, is about a 15, and since they were playing for

money, he wanted to rattle Melting. So Compton told him that the postqualifying inspection had revealed a violation that would require the crew to cut off the roof of his Dodge Intrepid. The ploy worked "for three holes or so," says Compton, whose gambit limited his losses to \$15.

Those were the days when the nascent Dodge program had so few problems that it could afford to invent them. By the time qualifying for the 500 was over, all 10 Dodge cars had made the field, and Intrepids started one-two-three. It should have come as no surprise that the cars qualified so well. When Dodge decided, in late 1999, to return to Winston Cup in 2001, the focus of the program was the qualifying for the 500. "We couldn't come to Daytona and send half the Dodge field home," says Compton. "We had to be competitive. We may have neglected other areas."

Bill Elliott's fifth-place finish was the best by a Dodge at Daytona. In the 20 races since, the 10 Dodges, at week's end, had only 25 top 10 finishes. The closest an Intrepid has come to winning was John Andretti's second-place finish at Bristol, which Sterling Marlin matched on Sunday. "The performance is not what

I would have expected," says Ray Evernham, who gave up his job as Jeff Gordon's crew chief to oversee Dodge's return. Going from micromanaging the building of race cars to handling a multitude of administrative details has been a difficult adjustment. "Being hands-on with one car and 25 people is a lot different from trying to run two race teams, build an engine shop and oversee 120 people," Evernham says.

While there has been plenty of

pit Stops

Dallas Cowboys owner **Jerry Jones** is looking into becoming a part owner of a Winston Cup team. Reports have linked him with owner **Richard Childress**, but it's more likely that Jones will invest in a team that is seeking a sponsor for 2002, such as the number 33 Chevy owned by **Andy Petree**, who has spoken with Jones about a deal. . . . The final race of the 2002 Winston Cup season is expected to be moved from Atlanta to Homestead, Fla. Cold weather in the fall has plagued Atlanta, so the track's race will be moved up three weeks, to Oct. 27.

Getting the finale is not necessarily a boon; the last three titles have been wrapped up in the season's penultimate race. . . . Less than a week after the Feb. 18 crash that killed **Dale Earnhardt**, a NASCAR doctor, **Steve Bohannon**, claimed that Earnhardt's lap belt broke, causing his head to hit the steering wheel. Soon after, **Bill Simpson**, the founder of Simpson Performance Products, the company that manufactured the belt, began receiving death threats. Last week the heat finally got to Simpson, who resigned from the company he started in 1959. Bohannon has backed off his claim that the belt failure caused Earnhardt's death, and NASCAR is expected to release the results of its investigation later this month.

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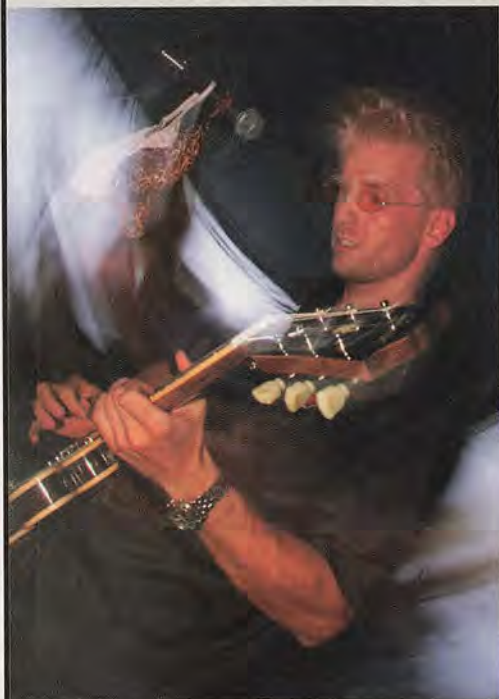
Wa-Wa Pedal to the Metal

Kenny Brack, CART's leading driver, is a terror on the track or on guitar

by Franz Lidz

SWADDLED IN A fire suit on a one-mile oval, Swedish-born CART driver Kenny Brack is as cool and calm as an autumn night in Stockholm. But set him on a stage and let him coax raw and raucous sound out of his electric guitar, and he seems to be a Fender-bending madman.

The tour leader at week's end in wins (three, through 11 races), poles (four), top five finishes



(five), laps led (472) and points (104—a formidable 22 ahead of his nearest rival, Helio Castroneves) moonlights as lead guitarist for the cover band R.P.M. Sure, the bottle-enhanced blond Brack and his boys perform the obligatory *Mustang Sally* and *Drive My Car* at fan fests, but they're also working up a rendition of the Sex Pistols' *Anarchy in the U.K.* "Kenny's just another in a long line of great Swedish guitarists," says David Letterman, who co-owns Brack's car with 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby Rahal. "Like Chuck Berry."

Brack's ability to shift gears from blues to rock

to punk mirrors his motor sports versatility. In 1994 the shy, slight road racing specialist joined the F-3000 circuit; two years later he was runner-up in the championship chase. He veered off to the oval-only Indy Racing League in 1997, won the series title in '98, won the Indianapolis 500 in '99, and then swerved over to CART in 2000. "He's very focused and very intense," Letterman says. "Anybody who's willing to dye his hair like that has to be very committed."

The 35-year-old Brack is also very meticulous. He prepped for his maiden CART race in Long Beach, Calif., last year by walking the two-mile course and taking notes. "Not for 10 or 15 minutes," says Scott Roembke, Team Rahal's chief operating officer. "Kenny was out there for 3½ hours!"

Before young Kenny drove his first lap, he drove across a frozen lake on his father's lap. "I was six," he recalls of his initiation in the flyspeck town of Arvika, 500 miles from the Arctic Circle. "There was a rally on the other side of the lake." By eight he was driving his dad's car on his own, and by 12, crashing it on his own. "I hit a rock," he says.

He didn't get into go-karts until the advanced age of 18. Two years later he won the Swedish Junior Formula Ford series, and in '92 he won nine of 10 events on the Renault Clio Scandinavian Championship. Turned off by F-3000 politics and the black flag waved at him for rough driving that caused another driver to crash in the '96 series finale (he drove through that black flag six times and paid a \$20,000 fine), he came to the States and landed as an IRL sub for the Galles Racing team in '97. He then drove on A.J. Foyt's team in '98 and '99. The brusque, steak-and-pancakes-loving Foyt and the studious, yogurt-slurping Brack made the oddest of couples. After winning Indy, Brack took a congratulatory call from the king of Sweden, and as he dallied on the line, an increasingly impatient Foyt said, "Tell Kenny the king of Houston is waitin' for him."

Last season Rahal lured Brack to CART. He won no races but wound up fourth in points. Victory eluded him until May 19, in Motegi, Japan, the fourth race of the year. Wins in Milwaukee and Chicago followed.

Brack got ready for the Chicago race by jamming with R.P.M. the night before. The band was formed only four months ago, but it has already had nearly as many members as Spinal Tap, though none of its drummers have spontaneously combusted.

"Well," says Letterman, "it's still early."

ing from Purdue last week. Passing up much of the college partying experience to race on weekends, Newman finished school in slightly more than four years. A 23-year-old South Bend native, Newman had made a name for himself maneuvering open-wheel cars in his home state since he was a child. In 1995 he was rookie of the year on the midget circuit. In February 2000 he talked his way into a meeting with Roger Penske, owner of a three-car NASCAR team. Penske offered Newman the chance to enter a few ARCA races last summer, and when Newman won three in a row, Penske devised a 2001 schedule in which Newman would run a mix of ARCA, Busch and Winston Cup races with an eye toward a full Cup ride in 2002.

ARCA cars are similar to Winston Cup cars. So similar, in fact, that the car in which Newman set the Lowe's Motor Speedway track record last October for the fastest lap in a stock car is the same one he has used in his four Cup races this year. ARCA races, however, tend to be shorter and the competition not as strong as in Busch and Winston Cup races, so Newman and Penske dropped the ARCA circuit to run more Busch races. "The Charlotte [ARCA] race last year was 100 laps [150 miles], and we did one pit stop under caution," Newman says. "We can run a 300-mile Busch race and do two or three pit stops. I get more experience handling the car, and the guys get more experience doing pit stops."

Newman guided his car, nicknamed *Patience*, to the fifth spot in qualifying at Brickyard 400, but he finished 31st after being bumped. He won the pole at Charlotte in May but finished last after an accident on the 12th lap, then finished fifth at Michigan in June. Such lofty results for a young driver sometimes leave him itching to get on with his full-time Cup career. When he feels that way, however, he relies, as he does on the track, on patience. □

Hunger Can't Tell Time.

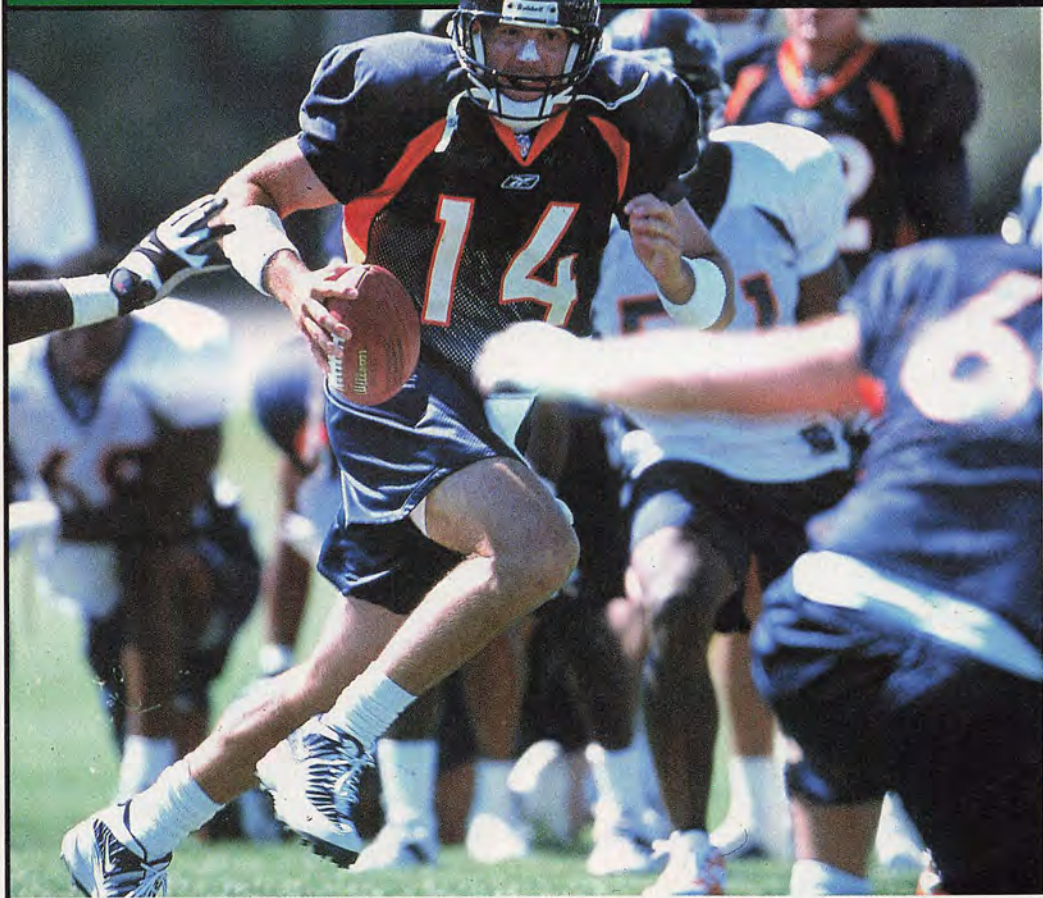


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Griese is back at full strength, feeling no ill effects from his off-season shoulder surgery.

Hall of Famer my entire life," he said. "So maybe I was ready for everything that came after John retired. I wanted to prove he's not the only one who could win in this offense."

The mediocre post-Elway record is due largely to a spate of injuries in 1999 and Griese's separated throwing shoulder last year, which caused him to miss five games (including a 21-3 playoff loss in Baltimore). When he did play, Griese was the cool, efficient customer whom coach Mike Shanahan envisioned when he picked the Michigan quarterback in the third round of the '98 draft. Last season his 102.9 rating led all NFL passers, as did his 19-4 touchdown-to-interception ratio. It helps that Denver's offense is as deep and talented as any that Elway ran. Only once in 16 seasons did an Elway-led offense produce as many points (485) as Denver's put up last year.

Griese is more of a loner than Elway was. He doesn't mind eating by himself at camp. There were six empty seats between him and his nearest teammate, wide-out Ed McCaffrey, at a meeting one night last week. Like Elway, however, Griese has plenty of grit. After being slammed to the turf on the second series of a game against the Raiders last Nov. 13, Griese returned to play the final three quarters with the separated shoulder. He completed 14 of his last 16 passes in a 27-24 win.

Griese had surgery on the shoulder last January and has had no problems. "It's pain-free," he says. "I haven't iced it once in camp." He's throwing free and easy, ending one drive early in camp with a 45-yard touchdown pass to wideout Rod Smith.

In Good Hands

Brian Griese has the tools, and the moxie, to help Broncos fans forget John Elway

by Peter King

DURING THREE days at Broncos training camp in Greeley, Colo., which included several hours listening to Denver sports talk radio and 12 hours interviewing almost two dozen players and coaches, you would think you'd hear John Elway's name mentioned at least once. After all, since Elway retired after winning his second straight Super Bowl

in January 1999, the Broncos are 16-16 and haven't won so much as a playoff game. So why isn't anyone pining for one of the greatest playmakers in NFL history?

The answer was sitting on a couch outside the Broncos' training camp dining hall one afternoon in the person of Brian Griese. The heir to Elway's throne, Griese thought for about a minute before offering a more expansive explanation. "I saw an

interview with Reggie Jackson not long ago," said Griese, 26. "He said when Babe Ruth retired, people wondered what the Yankees would do without him. Then Joe DiMaggio came along. When DiMaggio retired, Mickey Mantle came along. And when Mantle retired, it took a while, but Reggie came along."

Griese, the son of former Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese, went on. "I've been following a

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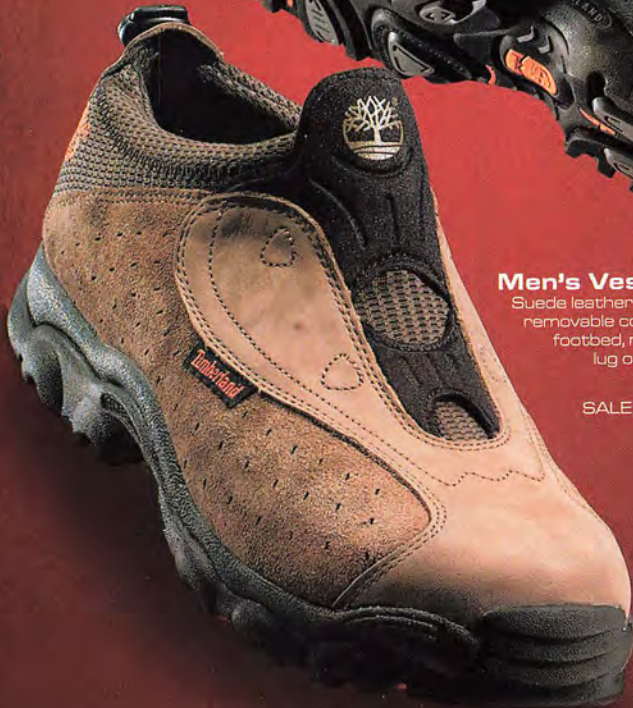


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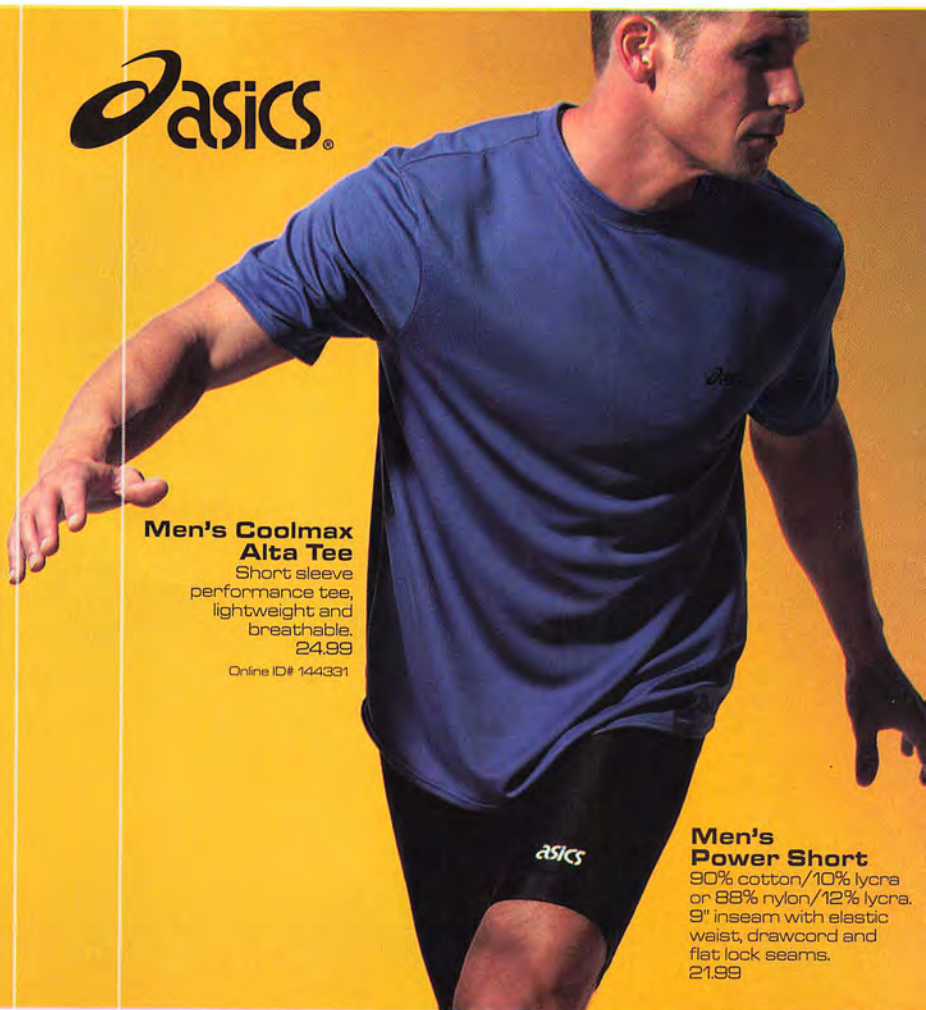


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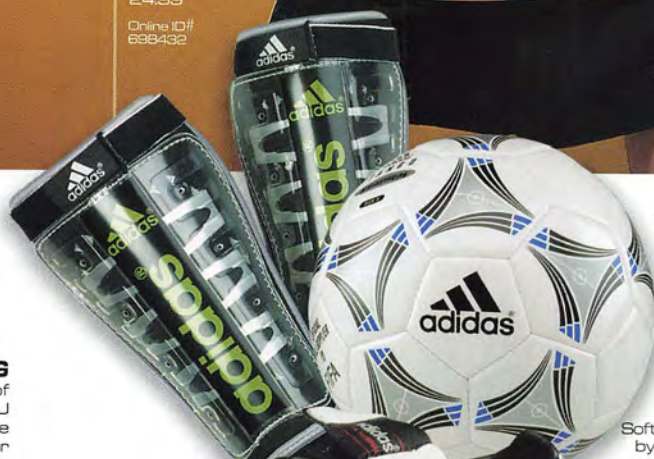
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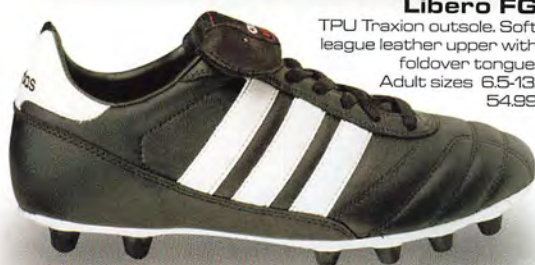
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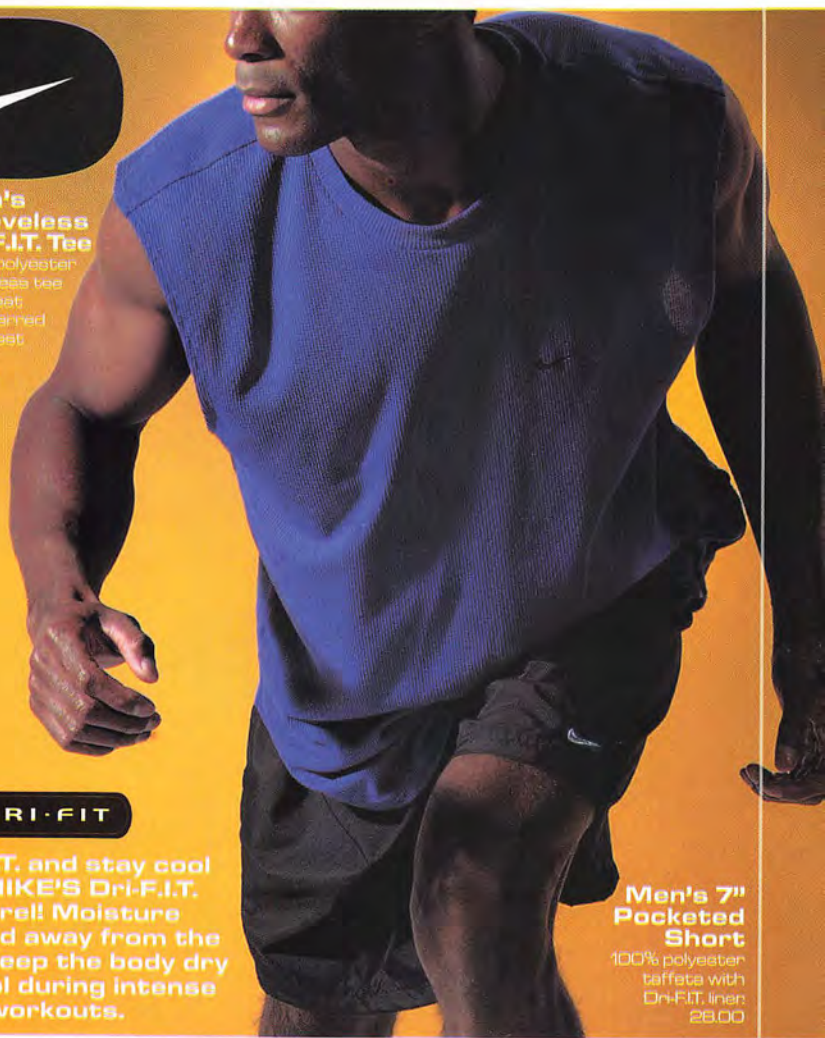
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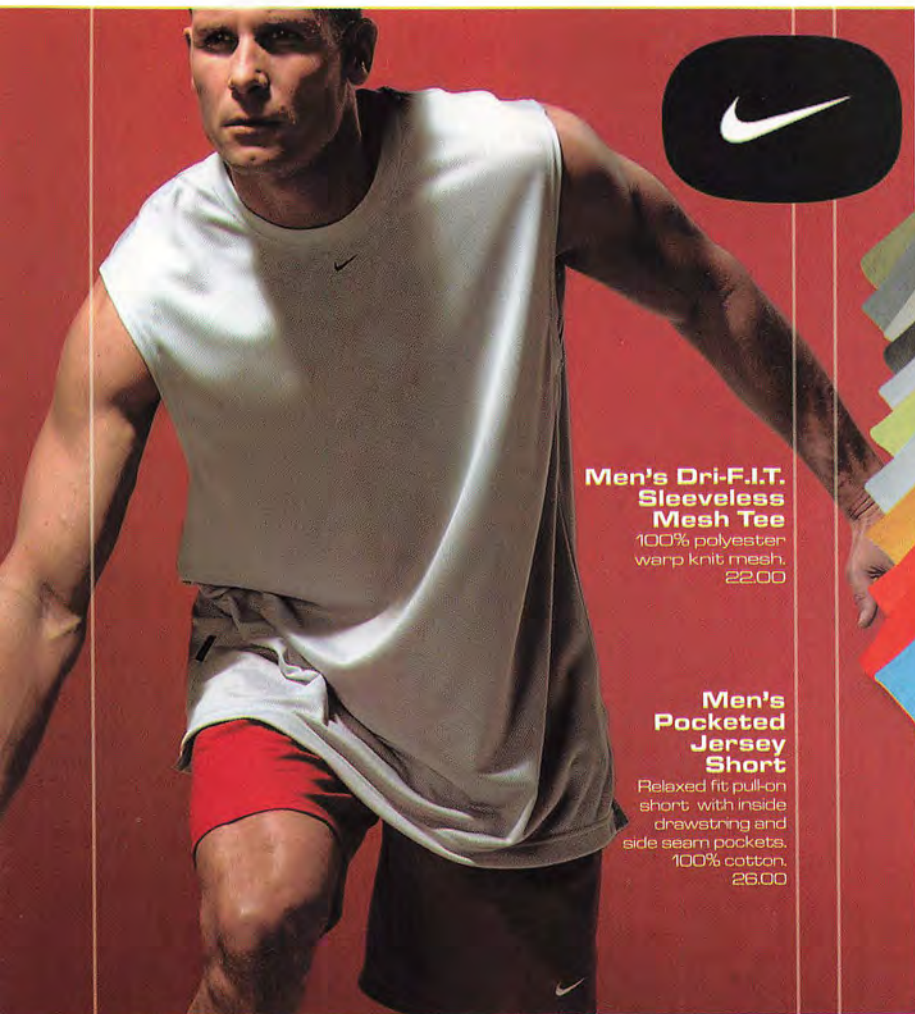
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Shanahan knows he has something special, though when he compares Griese with another quarterback, it's not Elway. "If we can keep a solid supporting cast around Brian and he stays healthy," says Shanahan, "I think he'll have the same kind of career Joe Montana had."

Considering Griese has made all of 23 starts, that comparison seems lofty. Still, in putting such a weight on Griese's shoulders, Shanahan is showing he trusts him the way he's trusted few players he has coached.

Training Camp Tour

Good News, Bad News

Scenes from summer drills:

- In a one-on-one passing drill, Titans rookie cornerback Andre Dyson stepped in front of wideout Marshaun Tucker and made a fingertip interception with the ball only inches from the ground. Dyson, the brother of Tennessee wideout Kevin Dyson, is in a four-way battle for the cornerback job opposite rising star Samari Rolle. If he keeps making plays like that, he'll win the job hands down.

- Cade McNown talks a good game. The embattled Bears quarterback skipped his last week of vacation to be in Tampa, polishing his footwork and mechanics with former NFL quarterback Steve DeBerg. "I'm growing up," McNown says. "I know I've got a job to do, and time is growing

short." Quite short, especially if he has stretches like this one on his first day in full pads: McNown underthrows Kaseem Sinceno on a 10-yard crossing route; overthrows D'Wayne Bates on a 12-yard cross; underthrows Ahmad Merritt down the right sideline; and wobbles a bomb far short of Sulecio Sanford. Team insiders think McNown may be playing elsewhere next season.

- Number 93 looks familiar, but something's missing. It must be the pounds. The new Gilbert Brown looks to be about 90% of the old Gilbert Brown, the oversized nosetackle of the 1996 and '97 Packers. Last week, in individual drills, he pushed around starting guard Mike Wahle. After eating himself out of the league before last season, Brown ballooned to more than 400 pounds. Late last year, determined to return to the NFL, he began training at Kansas, his alma mater. He reported to camp at 332 pounds, and the Green Bay brass likes his chances of making the team. "We could be looking at the comeback player of the year," says vice president of football operations Mark Hatley.

Jimmy Smith's Comeback

Coughlin Shows His Soft Side

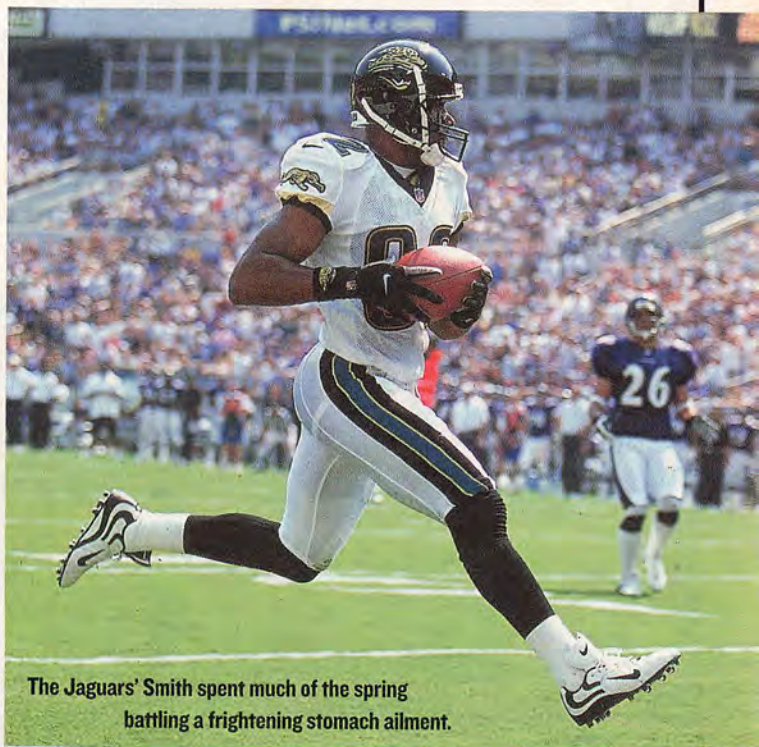
Jaguars wideout Jimmy Smith doesn't remember how many times he woke up from his real-life nightmare and saw his coach,

Tom Coughlin, sitting at his bedside. "He came by the hospital at least every other day," says Smith, whose career was threatened by a stomach ailment in the off-season. "What touched me is that he never talked about me playing football again. He cared about me as a person. He got me through this."

Smith was hospitalized three times between late March and May. The culprit turned out to be scar tissue from a 1993 appendectomy that had built up and created a blockage in his small intestine, making it difficult to digest food. "It was kinked,

like a garden hose," says Smith, who lifted his shirt after a practice to reveal a six-inch scar, the result of the surgeries.

Smith hopes to be ready for the opener on Sept. 9 against the Steelers. After losing 20 pounds when he was sick, he is back at his playing weight, which is a start. Obviously, he is vital to Jacksonville's success. No player has caught as many balls for as many yards over the past five years as Smith, who has 450 receptions for 6,599 yards. Can he return to his old form? "I want to be better," says Smith. "Wouldn't that be a great story?" □



The Jaguars' Smith spent much of the spring battling a frightening stomach ailment.

Dispatches

NO TEAM IS in a rush to talk trade with the Redskins for the "retired" **Deion Sanders**. For starters, no one is sure about Sanders's intentions, though he'll probably try to play again. Washington, which retains his rights, would want a high draft choice for Sanders, but he hasn't

been the same player since undergoing left-toe surgery in April 1999. . . . **Leon Lett**, 32, is alive and well and set to see action for 25 plays a game in the Broncos' defensive line rotation. "We love him," Denver pass-rush coach **John Teerlinck** says of the former Cowboy. "He'll make a big difference for us." . . . Referee **Phil Luckett**, the man in the middle of the coin-flip controversy involving the

Steelers and the Lions in 1999, says he wants to devote more time to religion, so he'll work this year as a back judge. Luckett estimates that as a referee and crew chief he spent 10 hours a week on paperwork and other details. . . . With **Flozell Adams** out until at least late August, the Cowboys are contemplating permanently moving the best guard in football, **Larry Allen**, to left tackle. Allen isn't unfamiliar

with the position. He played it in 1998 and went to the Pro Bowl. . . . The Chargers love the energy that quarterback **Doug Flutie** has brought to the team. . . . **Jeff Lewis** is struggling in his effort to win the Carolina quarterback job, last held by **Steve Beuerlein**, who was cut in March. Lewis is being pushed by **Chris Weinke**, the 29-year-old rookie from Florida State.

Inside Baseball

Comfort Zone

Some former National League hitters return to find there's no place like home

by Stephen Cannella

MUCH HAS happened in recent seasons to blur the differences between the American and the National Leagues—the advent of interleague play and the merging of umpire crews, to cite two significant examples—but don't tell that to new Giants first baseman Andres Galarraga. After

only four months in the AL, the Big Cat, who signed with the Rangers as a free agent last winter, couldn't wait to get back to the National, in which he had spent the first 16 years of his career. "No excuses for what happened in Texas, but I'm more comfortable over here," says Galarraga, who hit only .235 with 10 home runs and 34 RBIs in 243

at bats for the Rangers. Since being dealt to San Francisco on July 24, he'd batted .267 and driven in 14 runs through Sunday, and the Giants had won 10 of 11 to move within a game of the first-place Dodgers in the West.

"I played 15 years at first base in the NL, so there was a familiarity with the pitchers, the ballparks," Galarraga says. "Then I

go to the AL as a designated hitter. I felt like a pinch hitter. I wanted to be at first."

Jumping leagues may not be as difficult as it was before interleague play came along, but some players still find the switch unnerving. For most it's a matter of familiarity rather than any great divergence in the way the game is played. "Hitting requires learning what the pitcher has, what his curveball does and how he throws to you," says the Braves' new first baseman, Ken Caminiti, explaining his own struggles in Texas this season. "I was blind over in the American League."

Like Galarraga, Caminiti was a career National Leaguer who signed as a free agent with the Rangers last December. He hit .232 in 54 games before Texas released him last month. Since being picked up by Atlanta on July 5, he'd batted .300 with five homers in 23 games.

Other players cite lingering differences in pitching styles between the leagues. The fastball is still dominant in the National: Hitters can expect to be challenged often and can all but bank on seeing heat once they're ahead in the count. Not so in the American. "They throw way more breaking balls in the American League," says Mariners outfielder Al Martin, who was traded to Seattle last season after nine years with the Pirates and the Padres. A career .282 hitter in the National League, he's hit only .236 since switching leagues. "They just don't give in. I think it's tougher for a hitter to go from the NL to the AL."

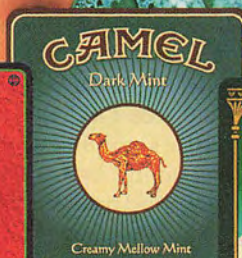
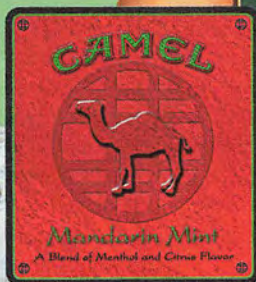
Players like Galarraga, Caminiti and third baseman Vinny Castilla, who joined the Astros in

Galarraga, who hit .235 with Texas, prefers the National League, in which he batted .291 over 15 years.



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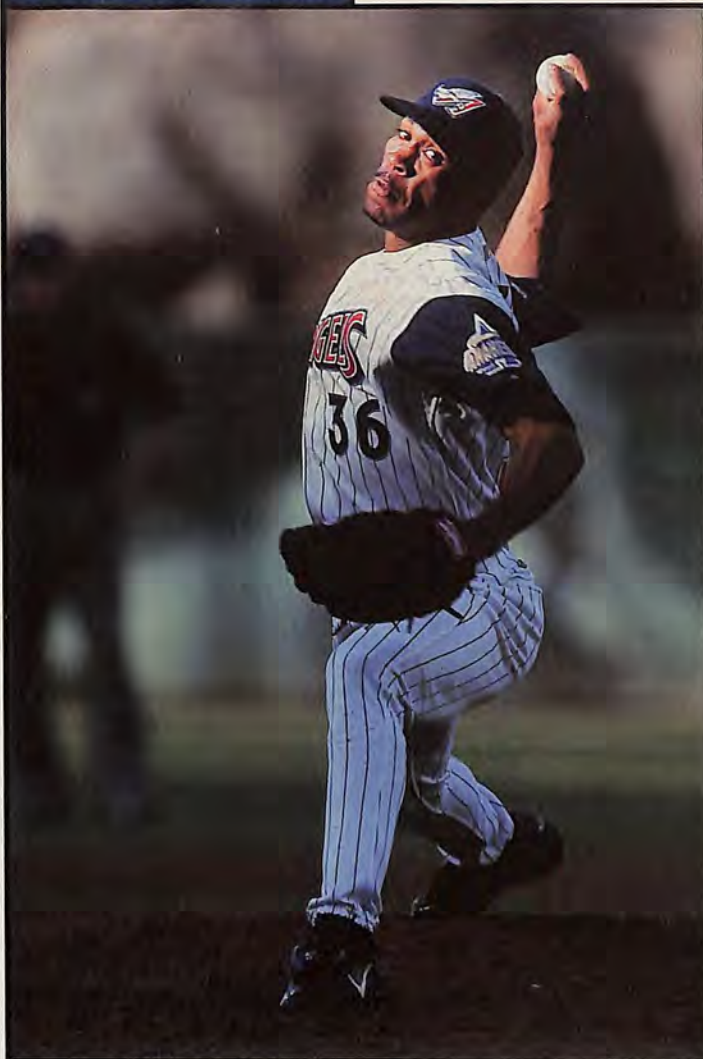
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May after a subpar year and two months with the Devil Rays and is another player who began producing again upon returning to the National League, also credit their resurgence to leaving a bad team for one in a pennant race. Still, Galarraga is happiest about feeding on a diet of pitches he's accustomed to. "I see more fastballs in the NL," he says. "In the AL it can be a 12-1 game, and they'll be pitching you away. I definitely like it better here."

Rotation Revelation

Angels Pitching Takes Wing

Angels lefthander Jarrod Washburn spends time during the off-season bow hunting for deer near his house in Danbury, Wis.

With a Pedro-like arsenal, Ortiz, 25, has blossomed into a key man in the surprising Angels' rotation.

To Washburn, stalking game isn't much different from hunting for outs on the mound. "Deer make adjustments just like hitters do," he says. "When you think you have them figured out, they change patterns of where they go, where they feed, things like that."

American League hitters aren't having much success adapting to Washburn and the rest of Anaheim's pitchers, suddenly one of the league's most predatory staffs. The Angels, who haven't finished a season with a team ERA of less than 4.00 since 1992, had the American League's third-best ERA through Sunday (3.84) and had allowed the fewest home

runs in the league, rankings that four months ago would have seemed as likely as a PETA protester joining Washburn on one of his winter outings. Before this season, any chance Anaheim had of contending was thought to rest with a strong bullpen (the league's second best in 2000) and what was expected to be an explosive offense, not with a rotation that relied on promising but callow arms.

The relievers have held to form by amassing the best ERA among major league bullpens (3.03). The lineup, which has scored the third-fewest runs in the league, has come up short, but the slack has been picked up by the surprisingly effective rotation. Angels starters have a 4.17 ERA, fourth best in the league, and on average had worked deeper into games than any other rotation in the majors (almost 6½ innings per start). They are the main reason that Anaheim had won 19 of its last 28 games through Sunday and, with a 57-54 record, had crept into the wild-card race, 6½ games behind the Red Sox.

One key to the staff's success has been good health. A season after a rash of injuries forced the Angels to trot out 16 starters, Anaheim had used only eight this year. Mostly, though, the improvement is attributable to the blossoming of Washburn, who turns 27 this week; 27-year-old lefthander Scott Schoeneweis (8-8, 4.80 ERA), who has the league's third-best ground ball-to-fly ball ratio; and 25-year-old righty Ramon Ortiz (10-7, 3.95), whose appearance, slight build and electric three-pitch arsenal evoke his idol, Pedro Martinez.

The trio's maturation began late last season, when manager Mike Scioscia and pitching coach Bud Black stressed to them the importance of working deeper into games: The pitchers combined for 365½ innings in 59 starts in 2000, 6.20 innings per outing. Scioscia has

enemy Lines

Two advance scouts, one from each league, reflect on what they saw and heard last week:

I'd still love to have him on my team, but Yankees shortstop **Derek Jeter** is going backward defensively. He backhands balls he should be getting in front of, and I don't think he's getting the jump on slow rollers that he used to. Maybe the leg he injured in spring training still bothers him, but he's not the player he was last year. . . . For that matter, neither is Yankees closer **Mariano Rivera**. His velocity is fine, but he doesn't have the consistent movement he had in the past. His ball has straightened out just enough that he's no longer unhittable. . . . Righthander **Ugueth Urbina**'s velocity is coming back. I had him at 93 to 95 mph when I saw him right before the Expos traded him to the Red Sox last week. He doesn't have the power he had before surgery [to remove bone chips from his right elbow]; he's more of a finesse guy now. He's throwing sliders and changeups instead of just pounding the fastball. . . . Indians righthander **Dave Burba** started 8-2, but he has been terrible lately. The reason: He refuses to pitch inside. He won't run his fastball in on hitters. I think he's afraid of giving up home runs, but he's giving up plenty of them anyway. . . . Braves righthander **John Smoltz** [who was moved to the bullpen upon returning on July 22 to Atlanta after his minor league rehab stint] is instantly one of the top three setup guys in the NL. He's throwing around 93 mph, and he has great command and presence. He'll definitely help Atlanta in that role for the rest of the season.

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How to enter: (1) On the Internet, visit www.tigerbuick.com OR (2) by touch-tone telephone, call 1-866-MEET-TIGER (1-866-633-8844). Provide your predictions as to what you think Tiger Woods' 18-hole scores will be for the third and/or fourth rounds of the 2001 Buick Open (August 10-11) and as to what you think the lowest score shot by any player will be for these rounds. Sweepstakes opens 3:00 a.m. (ET) on July 9, 2001. Entries must be entered and received: (a) for third-round pool, by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on August 10, 2001, and (b) for fourth-round pool, by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on August 11, 2001. If the scheduled starting dates/times for the third and/or fourth rounds change for any reason, Sponsor reserves the right to modify sweepstakes entry rules. Where possible, notice of any such change will be posted on the sweepstakes website and available at the sweepstakes 866 number.

All entrants must provide score predictions, their first and last name, complete address, city, state, zip code, home-telephone number, and valid e-mail address (if applicable). Entries that do not contain score predictions are void. Internet entries must hold that e-mail address, and telephone entrants hold their home-telephone number, before the sweepstakes start date. Only one entry per person. Multiple entries from the same person or containing the same e-mail address or home-telephone number, are void. Internet entries will be deemed made by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at the time of entry. The authorized account holder is the natural person who is assigned to the e-mail address by an Internet access provider, on-line service provider, or other organization that is responsible for assigning e-mail addresses or the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address.

Who may enter: Sweepstakes open to legal U.S. residents, who are 21 or older. Employees, officers, and directors (including immediate family members and members of the same household) of General Motors, the PGA TOUR, Inc., and PGA TOUR Players, their affiliated companies, subsidiaries, distributors, dealers, retailers, printers and advertising and promotion agencies, and any and all other companies associated with this sweepstakes, as well as relatives of General Motors and its subsidiaries, are not eligible to participate.

Winning: The week of August 12, 2001, an independent judging agency will select winners in random drawings. Ten (10) Grand Prize Winners will be selected from among all eligible entries containing predictions that match (or if none match, that come closest to) Tiger Woods' 18-hole, third-round score. Ten (10) Grand Prize Winners will be selected from among all eligible entries containing predictions that match (or if none match, that come closest to) Tiger Woods' 18-hole, fourth-round score. If Tiger Woods does not post an 18-hole third- and/or fourth-round score for any reason (did not qualify for play, injured, chose not to participate, etc.), Grand Prize Winner(s) will be selected, using the methods outlined above, from entry pool(s) determined on the basis of lowest-score-by-any-player predictions, instead of Tiger Woods' score predictions. Sponsor will attempt to contact prize winners by telephone and certified mail. Decisions of judges are final. One Prize per person, household or family.

Odds of winning: Depend upon the number of eligible entries received that include the correct score, or come closest to the correct score if an insufficient number of participants predict the correct score for each round.

Prizes: Twenty (20) Grand Prizes: 4-day/3-night trip for two to Buick's Tiger Training Camp hosted November 29, 2001 through December 2, 2001 at a Las Vegas metro area golf school. Includes round-trip coach air transportation from airport nearest winner or winner's guest's homes to Las Vegas International Airport, hotel accommodations, double occupancy, 3 days of instruction and/or golf at nearby courses, ground transportation to and from the airport, hotel and golf school. Departure dates, times, accommodations and golf school are subject to availability. Sponsor reserves the right to change training camp dates in its sole discretion. All travel arrangements will be made by the Sponsor. Restriction: Certain restrictions and blackout dates may apply. All meals, gratuities, service charges, or other expenses not specified are the responsibility of the winner. All taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Retail value of each Grand Prize is \$4,800. Total retail value of all prizes is \$120,000. All claimed prizes will be awarded. Prizes non-transferable, with no cash redemptions or substitutions except at Sponsor's sole discretion. Minors must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

Claiming prizes: During the week of August 12, 2001, Sponsor will attempt to contact by phone and/or registered mail the potential Grand Prize Winners that the judges selected from the entrant pool based on third-round score predictions and fourth-round score predictions. All Prize Winners must complete, sign and return affidavits of eligibility, waivers of liability and publicity releases within 7 days of receipt of written prize confirmation or prize will be forfeited. All taxes are the responsibility of the winner. If a company is a minor, will be required to sign and return Liability and Publicity Releases within 14 days. (Tennessee residents need not sign publicity release.)

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Winner's List: To receive a list of winners send a stamped self-addressed envelope before September 28, 2001 to Buick Tiger Training Camp Winner's List, PO Box 779, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-8779.

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Inside Baseball

facilitated their improvement by being slow to give them the hook. "He's showed he has confidence in us," says Schoeneweis. "Learning to pitch in the seventh and eighth inning, that's invaluable."

"The only way to learn about pitching is to be out there pitching," says Washburn, who was 7-2 last year but spent the final two months on the disabled list with a stress fracture in his pitching shoulder. When he returned to action this spring, he decided to be more aggressive with his fastball and scrap the mediocre curve he'd been using. "I used to have a good slider, but I lost it when I started throwing the curve in the minors," says Washburn. "So I had two bad breaking pitches. Now the slider is better but still not as sharp as it was."

No matter, because Washburn (9-5, 3.44) can change speeds with his four-seam fastball, which usually hums in the low 90s, and make it sink, cut in to righthanded hitters or run in on the hands of lefties. "Of the three, he probably has the best poise and composure on the mound," says Scioscia.

Washburn, Ortiz, Schoeneweis and veteran righthander Ismael Valdes (7-6, 3.80 ERA) give the Angels a realistic chance to have four 10-game winners for the first time in 10 years, a milestone that might have already been reached had the Ana-

heim hitters performed up to expectations. "Last year they hit and had to bear with us," says Schoeneweis. "This year we're returning the favor."

Braves Go with a Rookie**Atlanta's Giles Gets His Second Chance**

Few players with only 19 games of big league experience get a vote of confidence as resounding as the one Marcus Giles received last week. Just hours after the Braves completed a trade for Royals shortstop Rey Sanchez on July 31, they designated second baseman Quilvio Veras for assignment, suddenly making the 23-year-old Giles the starter at that position for Atlanta's pennant drive.

For Marcus, younger brother of star Pirates outfielder Brian, the promotion follows more than four years of developing into one of the top prospects in the Braves' farm system (after being taken by Atlanta in the 53rd round of the 1996 draft). Early on, Giles, a 5' 8", 180-pound righthanded batter, was tagged an all-hit, no-field player. For instance, with the Class A Macon Braves in 1998, he was the South Atlantic League's MVP (.329, 37 homers, 108 RBIs) but also committed 25 errors in 135 games.

Giles had played the outfield in high school

in the Box

(3) LOB - Seattle 7, Cleveland 11, 2B - (13), Cameron 2 (23), Lampkin (7), Vizquel (18), MCordova (13). 3B - Vizquel (4). HR - MCordova (13) off Halama; Branyan (15) off Sele;

INDIANS 15, MARINERS 14 Aug 5

After five innings Seattle led 14-2 and, with baseball's best bullpen waiting to protect the lead should starter Aaron Sele falter, both managers can be forgiven for emptying their benches. A combined seven starting position players were gone by the end of the seventh.

By then the Indians were on their way to tying the major league record for the largest comeback win ever. With three runs in the seventh and four in the eighth they cut the Mariners' lead to 14-9, and then loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth. Catcher Einar Diaz singled on a full-count delivery from lefty Norm Charlton,

Totals	51	15	23	15	5	7
Seattle	048	020	000	00	14	17
Cleveland	000	200	345	01	15	23

One out when winning run scored. a-singled for Olerud in the 5th. b-popped out for Gonzalez in the 6th. c-flied out for Martinez in the 7th. d-struck out for Lampkin in the 11th. E - Vizquel (5). LOB - Seattle 7, Cleveland 11. 2B - AMartin (13). 3B - Vizquel (4). HR - MCordova (13) off Halama; Sele. RBIs - Suzuki 3 (5), Martinez (7), Olerud (68), Sprague (11), AMartin (35), Cameron 3 (72), CGuillen 2 (45), Lampkin (15), Vizquel 4 (35), JolCabrera 3 (28), Thome 3 (95), Branyan (42), MCordova 2 (53), EADiaz 2 (46). SF - Suzuki. GIDP - Burks, Fryman. RLISP - Seattle 2 (Cameron 2); Cleveland 4 (JolCabrera 2, Taubensee, WCordova). RMU - AMartin. DP - Seattle 2.

driving in two. Another single loaded the bases for shortstop Omar Vizquel, who had just been told by manager Charlie Manuel that he could "triple into the rightfield corner" if he stayed patient. "I said, 'Yeah, sure, Charlie,'" said Vizquel.

But he did just that, on another 3-and-2 pitch. The triple cleared the bases, tied the score and set the stage for a game-winning, 11th-inning single by Jolbert Cabrera—who had replaced Roberto Alomar at second back in the sixth.



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and junior college but was converted to an infielder and tutored in the minors by current Atlanta first base coach Glenn Hubbard, a former Braves second baseman. "I needed to work hard and get the reps," says Giles. "Glenn taught me everything I know."

Giles was a good student. He made only eight errors in 67 games with the Triple A Richmond Braves this year, and in 18 games with Atlanta through Sunday, he had yet to make a miscue. Indeed, one reason the Braves were comfortable in cutting loose Veras was that they think Giles is better defensively, not just offensively. Says third baseman Chipper Jones, "He's turned the double play better than anybody here since Mark Lemke."

After 76 at bats with the Braves, Giles was hitting .276 with two homers and 10 RBIs. As for the pressure of a division race, the only one who believes in Giles and his abilities more than Jones and the Braves may be Giles. "I'll just be me," he says. "I think it's going to be good enough for them."—Mark Beech

On Deck

Double Bill

Aug. 14–16, A's at Blue Jays
Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver used to tell the Orioles, "If you feel you're going to hit into a double play, strike out." Oakland skipper Art Howe might want him to give the A's a pep talk before this series. Through Sunday, Oakland had hit into 95 double plays, the most in the American League. Toronto, meanwhile, had discovered one bright spot in allowing more hits than any team except the Rangers: The Blue Jays had turned the second-most twin killings (134) in the majors. □

For scores, stats and the latest news, plus more from Tom Verducci and Stephen Cannella, go to cnn.com/baseball.

SPOTLIGHT

Dirt Dog Has His Day

Boston's Trot Nixon has made a name for himself with hustle and hitting

by Stephen Cannella

THE LABELS are beginning to pile up for Red Sox outfielder Trot Nixon. For starters, there's his de facto first name, short for Trotman, the antebellum-sounding middle name he was given in honor of his grandfather. Although his first name is Christopher, he has been called Trot since his childhood in Wilmington, N.C. Then there's the nameplate above his locker in the Sox' Fenway Park club-



house, which reads VOLCANO instead of NIXON. A mischievous teammate made the change because the hyperintense Nixon, as Boston first baseman Brian Daubach says, "can erupt at any time."

Nixon got yet another tag last month, when Blue Jays reliever Paul Quantrill referred to him and some of his unheralded teammates as "dirt dogs." Says Nixon, "It's a compliment. It means we're not afraid to get dirty, to do whatever it takes

to win." Dirt Dog is fitting, but the label Nixon likes most is *regular*, one he has earned this season with the best play of his four-year career.

Through Sunday, Nixon, 27, was hitting .283. He was second on the Red Sox in RBIs, with 57, behind slugger Manny Ramirez, and tied for second (with Daubach) in home runs (18, a career high), also behind Ramirez. After starting the season in rightfield, Nixon shifted to center when Carl Everett went down with a sprained right knee on June 21. During Everett's absence, Nixon batted .316, had seven homers, drove in 23 runs in 31 games and played his usual stellar defense. (He went back to right when Everett returned to action on July 28.) Only Ramirez has been in Boston's revolving-door lineup more often than Nixon, whose at bats have been evenly spread among the top three spots in the order.

In the clubhouse Nixon, a lefthanded hitter who sends the ball to all fields, gets a lot of credit for keeping injury-ravaged Boston in the fight for a postseason berth. Not bad for someone whose ability to play every day was questioned publicly by Red Sox general manager Dan Duquette during spring training. Now, with a rare flash of humor, Duquette says, "Nixon's the one. He's developed into one of the better every-day players in the big leagues."

Boston has been waiting for Nixon to break through since making him its first-round draft pick in 1993, the year *Baseball America* named him the best high school player in the country (ahead of Alex Rodriguez). Nixon made the majors for good in '99 and spent the past two seasons as a role player, gaining recognition for a hard-nosed style that sends him crashing into outfield fences, careering around the base paths and raging at himself when he makes an out. He also emerged as one of the Red Sox' best clutch performers and a fan favorite—Boston rooters relish the memory of his game-winning, ninth-inning homer off Roger Clemens at Yankee Stadium in May 2000.

His teammates became equally awed and amused by his linebacker's demeanor. "You look at him now, and he's a completely different person than he will be at 7:05," closer Derek Lowe said three hours before a recent game. "No human can have his intensity all day long."

"He can snap with the best of them," adds Daubach, as he rummages through his locker in search of one of the DIRT DOG T-shirts a friend of Nixon's made up, "but everything he does is to help the team win." □

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The Gang's

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2001



Pursuit of a national title is now a year-round job, with a summer full of “voluntary” workouts and activities. Is it excessive? The players don’t think so, claiming that male bonding builds champions

by Jack McCallum | photograph by Robert Beck

All Here!

A group of about ten men are splashing and playing in a river. They are all shirtless or wearing minimal clothing, and many are making 'rock on' hand gestures. The water is splashing around them, creating a dynamic and energetic scene. The background shows a riverbank with trees and a bridge in the distance.

TUBILATION The team that plays together stays together, but few squads had such a splashing good time as Oregon players did, floating down the Willamette.

IT IS HARDLY newsworthy that the nation's major-college football players are doing some hitting over the summer. What they're hitting, though, may be a bit of a surprise. Illinois's guys are hitting softballs, Virginia Tech's are hitting the NASCAR circuit, Mississippi State's are hitting the dirt, Oregon's are hitting the water, LSU's are hitting the air, East Carolina's are hitting the pavement, and Texas Tech's, bless their traditional hearts, are hitting one another. Furthermore, many of them, to one degree or another, are hitting the books. Without these summertime activities and/or a full schedule of so-called voluntary workouts, coaches and players say, their teams would hit the skids come autumn.

"There is no way we could contend for a national championship if we weren't together in the summer," says Oregon center Ryan Schmid. "The trust we'll have in one another during the season will have been built in the summer, and there's no way you can overvalue trust on a football team." Says Indiana wide receiver-quarterback Antwaan Randle El, "In the summer you find out which players are really dedicated and which ones aren't—and you have to get the undedicated ones off your team."

>> BASIC TRAINING With Grant (far left) barking encouragement, the Bulldogs got mud in their eyes and one credit apiece for a weekly scramble through The Compound.

Yes, major-college football has become a 12-month commitment, particularly intense in the summer, when the battle cry is, *Bond in the heat and we can't be beat*. These fun-in-the-sun activities—well, Texas Tech lineman Cody Campbell, who was knocked cold during the Red Raiders' weekly boxing matches, might quibble with the word *fun*—are designed to draw players together, get them thinking like a team, help them find their leaders and "lay a foundation that players can build upon during the season," says Oregon coach Mike Bellotti. Teams that don't have something special on their summer schedule still meet for strength and conditioning workouts ("feeling each other's pain," says Michigan defensive lineman Jake Frysinger) and seven-on-seven drills (quarterbacks, running backs



BILL FRANKS







and receivers versus linebackers and defensive backs). Call it summer camp with a purpose.

Or call it preseason football. "We feel in many cases that the spirit of the law is violated in the summer," says NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro. NCAA guidelines govern "voluntary athletically related activities," which those in the summer are supposed to be. The prevailing stipulation is that participation must be voluntary, not mandatory. Also, according to the NCAA, activities "must be initiated and requested solely by the student-athlete," and players cannot report to coaches. "The idea," says Renfro, "is to keep things from becoming too organized, too much like football practice."

Are voluntary summer workouts too much like mandatory practice? With all the training going on at most campuses, and such a high percentage of players involved, it sure looks that way, which raises a troubling issue. Although conditioning coaches and team trainers are frequently around, medical personnel are not on duty. Why would

» **KARATE KIDS** Black belts they weren't, and probably never will be, but LSU players (in purple shorts) still found it unifying to learn how to put their best defense forward.

they be for activities that are by definition unofficial? In February, following a voluntary predawn indoor workout at Florida State, sophomore linebacker Devaughn Darling collapsed and died. According to the autopsy report, the combination of an intense workout, irregular heartbeat and the sickle-cell trait may have contributed to his death. On July 25, Florida running back Eraste Autin, a freshman, died six days after being felled by heat-stroke following a voluntary workout. Then last Friday, Northwestern starting safety Rashidi Wheeler, an asthmatic, suffered a severe attack during voluntary sprint workouts and died an hour later. In none of the cases was a doctor present, though for mandatory workouts at these schools a doctor is usually available or makes regular stops during the week.

The main reason practices can be as organized as they are is a provision in the NCAA guidelines that allows "staff members to provide information to student-athletes related to available opportunities for participating in voluntary activities." Translation: A coach can "provide information" for conditioning workouts. Ergo, the most important figure in the summer life of a college football team is clearly the strength and conditioning coach.

Once a week at Mississippi State, strength coach Mike Grant puts his charges through an obstacle

BOB ROSATO

course that resembles military basic training. In fact, Grant has posted a huge sign at the entrance of the course that reads THE COMPOUND: WHERE BOYS WILL BECOME MEN. Players crawl on their bellies under ropes, pull a 130-pound tire through a sand-pit, climb a 35-foot rope to scale a wall, and, in teams of five, race up a 60-yard hill holding a 12-foot-long, 400-pound telephone pole. (Slowpoke teams get to do 50 sit-ups while holding the pole across their chests.) "Our guys are kind of crazy, and they have the right coach for it," says Grant. The training is ac-

✓ **BASH BROTHERS** The Illini love the long ball, and it was their idea to build cohesiveness with a football-players-only softball league on Wednesday nights.

tually offered as a one-credit phys-ed course, open to any student. Not surprisingly, almost all of Mississippi State's football players take it.

At Texas Tech, coach Mike Leach, who boxed in his younger days, suggested that the Red Raiders linemen hit the heavy bag—and hit each other in the ring. Strength and conditioning coach Kelvin Clark organizes the twice-a-week sparring and works with a Lubbock boxer, Gilbert Castillo, to keep the lads bobbing and weaving. The boxing matches serve as a bonding tool for the skill position players, too. Taking a break from their own weightlifting workouts, they gather a safe distance away to watch the heavy breathing, "glad it's not us in there," as quarterback Kliff Kingsbury puts it.

Once a week at LSU, the players, organized by strength and conditioning coordinator Tommy Moffitt, go through their karate chops, turning the Tigers' indoor complex, in Moffitt's words, "into a dojo." Fittingly, they practice *shotokan*, a form of karate



JEFFREY LOWE

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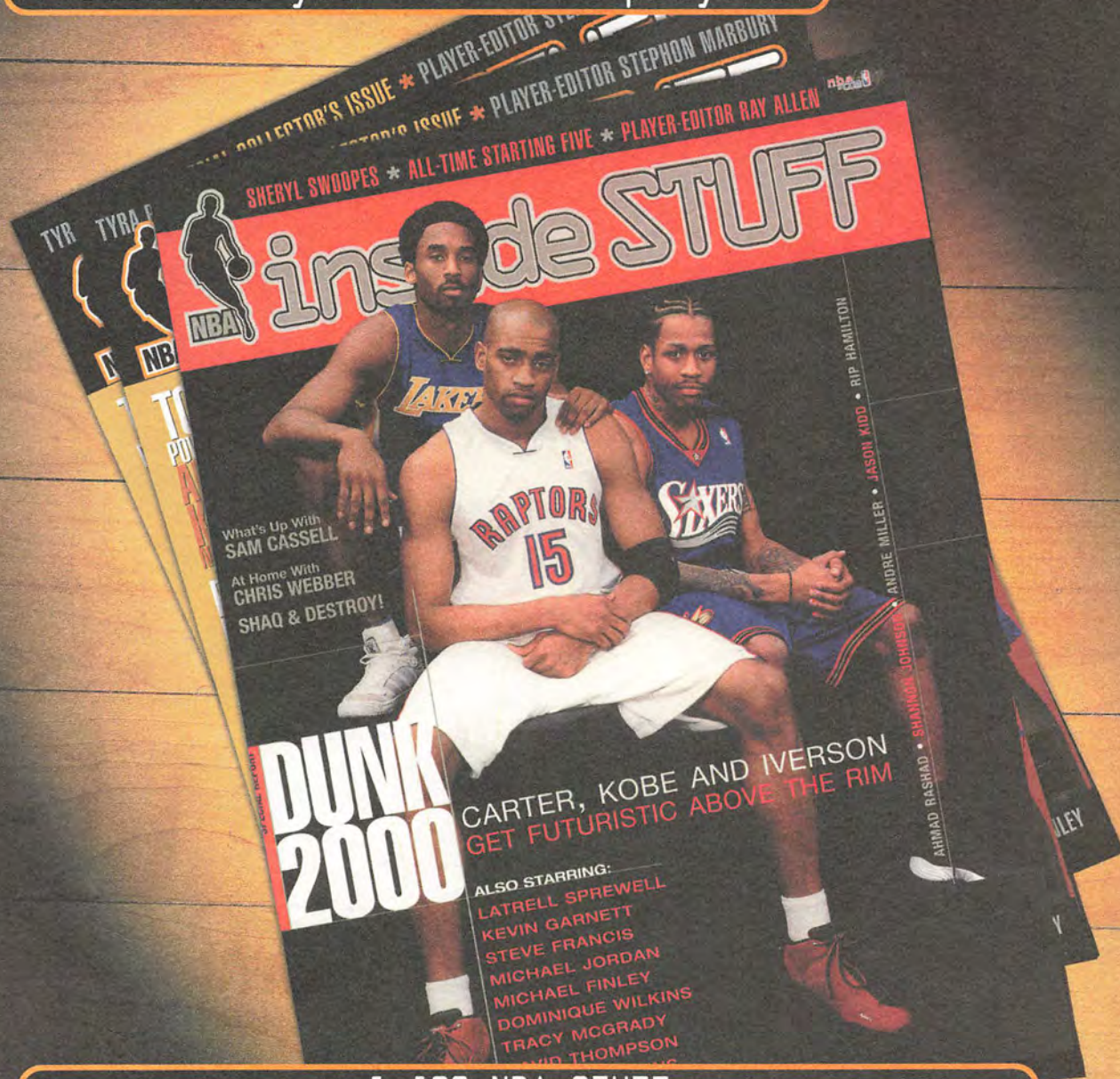
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whose traditional symbol is the tiger. At East Carolina, first-year strength coach Jim Whitten holds a strongman competition (this year's was won by wide receiver Marcus White) that involves all sorts of physical challenges, such as running up a stadium ramp while wearing a 20-pound vest, pushing a truck up an incline and carrying a 220-pound sandbag the length of a football field.

The physical training is, of course, a means to an end, and that end is not developing Olympic athletes. It's developing stronger and quicker football players, and, further, giving a coach conditioned athletes who can get right to football specifics when official practice begins. Does this seem like a system in which the players are calling the shots? Hardly. At Missouri, first-year coach Gary Pinkel made it clear he wanted his charges to stay in Columbia over the summer, something that previous Mizzou coaches had not made as much of a priority. Did Missouri athletes feel they had a choice about staying on campus? "Nowadays, I don't think players do have a choice," says sophomore center A.J. Ricker. "It is voluntary, but the coach also has the power to not sign your scholarship again. I'm not saying he'd do it, I'm just saying it's in his power."

Anyway, the boys of summer police themselves. "If a certain guy starts missing summer workouts," says Texas Tech guard Jason May, "it'll be a player who will tell the coaches. We're here together in the summer, a family. As with any family, we've got to take care of things internally."

There's even a nonfootball benefit to summer workouts: Almost all players take at least one class. "It's difficult for football players to stay even or catch up during the regular school year," says Illinois senior quarterback Kurt Kittner, "so the summer is a time to get a few hard classes out of the way."

Then, too, some summer activities are exactly what they're supposed to be: voluntary and player-organized. Illinois's six-team Wednesday-night softball league, made up exclusively of football players, was Kittner's brainchild. Oregon's linemen have squeezed into big inner tubes and bobbed along the lazy current of the Willamette River, trips planned by a group of players. A contingent of Virginia Tech players made the 450-mile drive from Blacksburg to Pocono Raceway to watch the July 29 Pennsylvania 500, their sixth NASCAR race this year. They pitched a tent, stayed two nights, and—who



PETER GREGOIRE

ROAD SCHOLARS Pitching tents at stops along the NASCAR circuit, Virginia Tech players (here at Pocono Raceway) bonded over campfires and carburetors.

knows?—maybe spent part of the time goofing on their coaches.

It would be nice if we still lived in an era in which athletes squeezed in football around chemistry lab, student government duties and a summer job at the drugstore. But coaches have come to believe that "summer is the most crucial part of the development of a football team," as Miami coach Larry Coker puts it. Even the old-timers have come around to the year-round philosophy. "I always wanted my kids to go home for the summer and get away from football," says Florida State coach Bobby Bowden. "But the game has changed so much that you need players lifting and running all summer so they're ready to go when practice starts. Everybody has teams together over the summer, and you damn well better do it or you'll fall way behind." □

W

HAT DID you do, Chris Simms, on your summer vacation—all two weeks of it?

That's right. Following the spring semester at Texas, Simms arrived home in Franklin Lakes, N.J., had a fortnight of his mother's cooking, then returned to Austin, where workouts beckoned. Simms, however, made those 14 days at home count. He threw to one of his high school buddies, Rob Milanese, a wideout at Penn. He caught bronchitis. He watched a 17-year-old videotape of the Los Angeles Rams' 33-12 win over the New York Giants while sitting alongside that game's losing quarterback—his father, Phil. And he broke up with his high school sweetheart. "We're still on good terms," says Chris. "I really do love her, but I have a lot going on in my life right now. I'm trying to accomplish something here."

A 6' 5", 222-pound junior quarterback, Simms is trying to take the Longhorns to the national title that was predicted for them, in some quarters, last year. Before he does, the southpaw passer must finish the job of making the Texas offense *his* offense. It was that task into which he hurled himself on June 11, the day after returning to Austin.

He began that day with a weight workout (chest and arms), followed by a running session under a broiling midday sun and—more daunting still—the baleful eye of Texas strength coach Jeff (Mad Dog) Madden. Later, Simms and a handful of his teammates jogged onto a grass field adjacent to an elevated freeway near the Texas

campus. It was 5:30 p.m. and could not have been a degree below 95, but the assembled Longhorns put on quite a show for stalled rush-hour commuters. Sophomore wideout B.J. Johnson snagged a Simms bullet in stride, a red shower cap protecting the extravagant waves of his coiffure. ("I let the ladies see 'em on weekends," he said, declining an invitation to remove the cap.) Sophomore tight end Bo Scaife, on a post route, ran like a wide receiver despite having blown out his left knee the previous August. The physical marvel pulling footballs out of the sky one-handed, the 6' 5" man-child with the shaved head, was wide receiver Roy Williams, a true sophomore who could play in the NFL this minute.

"This is what you gotta do, when you gotta do it," said Williams, whose full extension snag of a 70-yard Simms bomb provided a spectacular finale to this session. Wiping rivulets of sweat from his shaved head, he added, "Can't make those plays during the season if you don't make 'em out here." Johnson and Williams also spent the summer working to expunge memories of the waning moments of last season, when each dropped a Simms pass in the end zone, sealing the Longhorns' 35-30 Holiday Bowl loss to Oregon.

Simms's calm in the face of those last-minute drops—Johnson muffed another pass on which he could have scored—stayed with the team after the game. "He's a natural leader and probably the least conceited person I've met," says Sloan Thomas, the third of Texas's outstanding sophomore wide receivers. "He has all these God-given abilities,

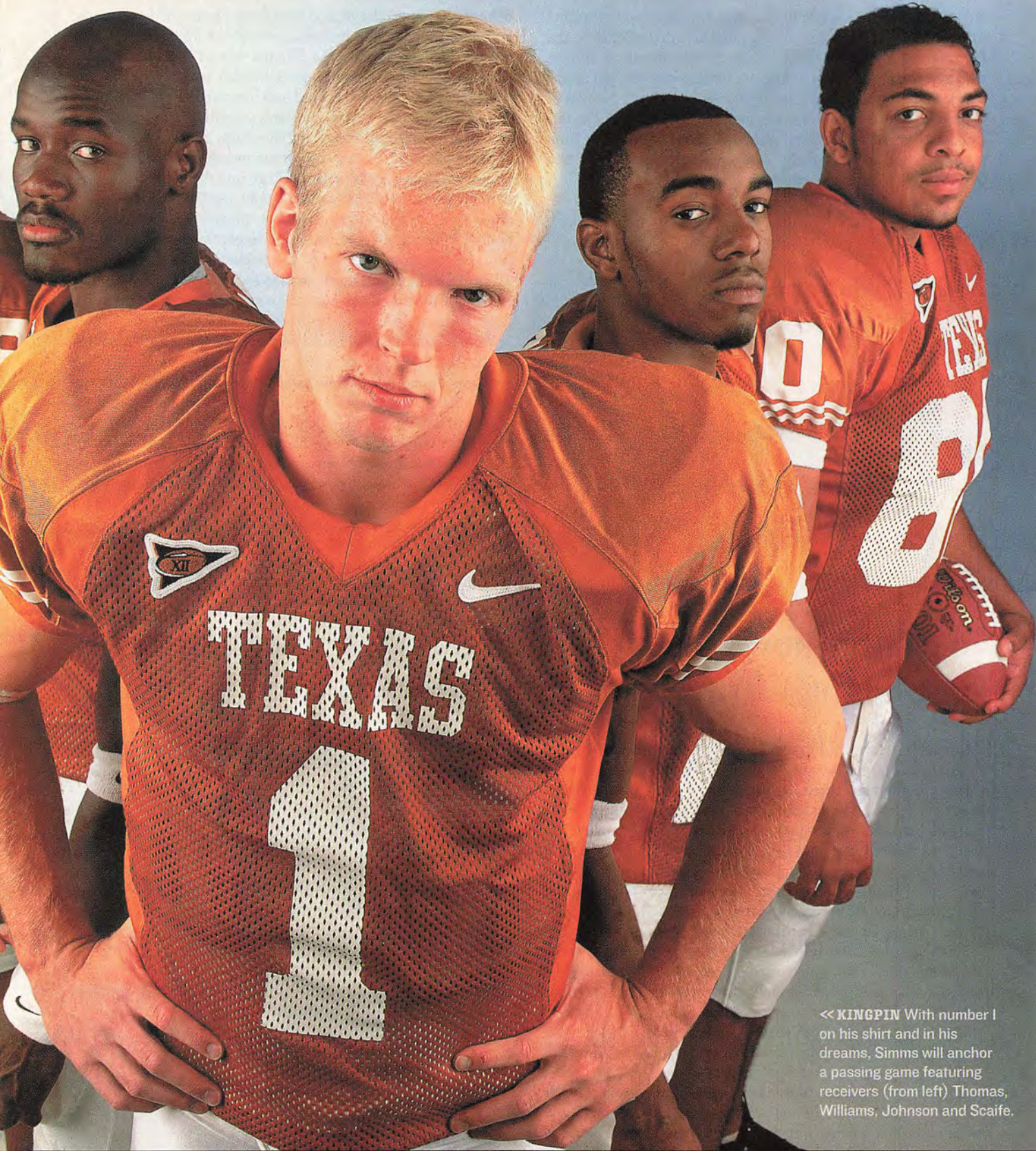
by Austin Murphy

photograph by Darren Carroll

Steer Crazy

Chris Simms is all football, all the time in his fervent quest to quarterback





<< **KINGPIN** With number 1 on his shirt and in his dreams, Simms will anchor a passing game featuring receivers (from left) Thomas, Williams, Johnson and Scaife.

the Longhorns to a national title and find his place in Texas football lore

but he still works as hard, or harder, than anyone else on the team.”

Will this group, the core of the most talented offense in the Big 12, put it all together in 2001? Much will depend on Simms, who isn't leaving much to chance. He was the one who got on the phone and organized this unofficial passing session, the first of many that Simms would initiate over the summer. He's the one who never misses a voluntary workout and finishes near the front in the sprints, “even though,” as a teammate points out, “he's nowhere near the fastest guy on the team.”



fishing crowd and the African-American players. His roommate and close friend is Rod Babers, a cornerback from Houston who coined the Prince nickname. “That's right, I came up with it,” Babers says. “He's not the King yet, but he's working on it.”

While Applewhite is also liked and respected, the team appears solidly behind coach Mack Brown's selection of Simms as the starter going into this season. “They both played very well [in spring practice],” Brown says of his two quarterbacks. “Chris played great, so that's the way we'll go into the fall.”

At his best, says offensive coordinator Greg Davis, Simms makes plays with “his feet and his head.” He throws hard, with accuracy and, when required, touch. Even if a play breaks down around him, he can scramble out of the pocket and launch the ball 70 yards. Simms still needs to take better care of the ball: His eight touchdown passes last fall were offset by seven interceptions, three of which were returned for touchdowns.

Word around the conference was that Simms tended to telegraph his throws. “He might be better now,” says Oklahoma safety Roy Williams, “but last year, if he looked in one direction, he threw in that direction. But I'm pretty sure his dad can help him with that.”

Dad isn't talking; Phil politely declined SI's interview requests, clearly indicating that he wants his gifted son to be free of his father's shadow. Chris, though, speaks of the many happy hours the two spent together throughout his youth, fast-forwarding and rewinding through videotapes of Giants games, in which Phil played for 14 seasons after graduating from Morehead State in 1979. Still, it seems obvious that the son's skull sessions with his father can take the boy only so far. All those happy hours watching the old man hook up with Mark Bavaro and Phil McConkey, all those discus-

No matter how closely he studied his father's mistakes as a Giant, Chris (below) had to learn from his own.

Simms is determined to realize the potential he showed as a *Parade* All-America at Ramapo (N.J.) High, where he played in every game for four years, threw 63 touchdown passes, led the Green Raiders to a Group 3 state championship as a junior and became the most celebrated schoolboy quarterback since Peyton Manning. You don't hear those two compared much anymore. While Manning started three full years at Tennessee, Simms at most will start two full years at Texas—if he remains injury-free and if he performs well enough to hold at bay the gritty and talented Major Applewhite, a senior who already holds 40 school passing records.

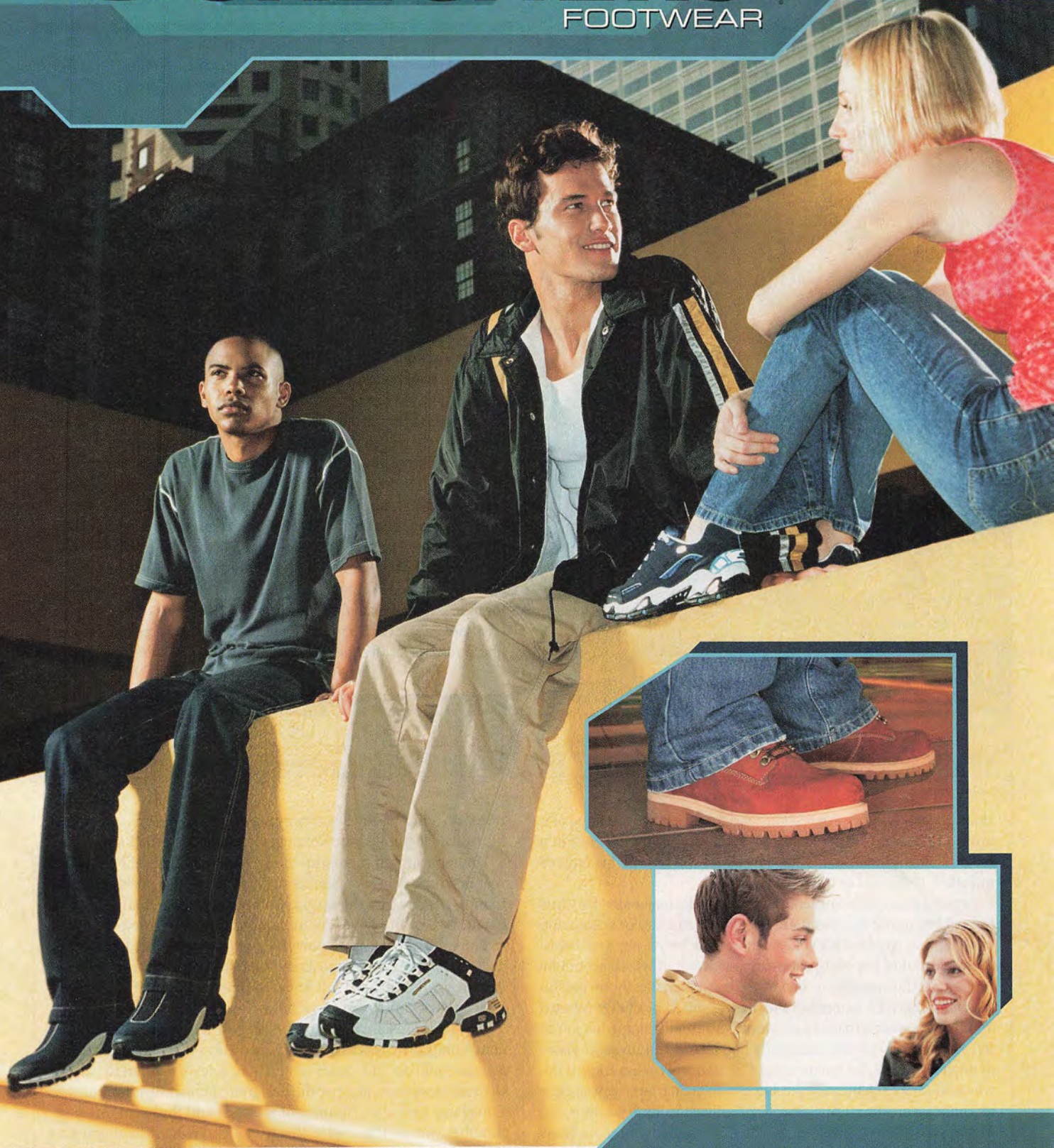
Simms also has a fair amount of grit, though you wouldn't know it from his nickname: the Prince. His moniker works in several ways. Simms's hair sometimes falls straight down, reminiscent of Prince Valiant's bangs. He is descended from football royalty, certainly, his father having been the MVP of Super Bowl XXI. He pays princely sums for the stylish ensembles he favors, including designer shirts and Kenneth Cole shoes. On the morning he reported to camp as a freshman in 1999, he was driven from his hotel to the campus in a limousine. Simms's excuse—that his mother, Diana, had arranged for the limo unbeknownst to him—failed to sway his fellow Longhorns, who called him Limo the remainder of the season.

The grief he gets is good-natured. Simms has earned the respect and affection of his teammates, including both the hunting-and-



RIGHTY, LEFTY Some fear Chris will always fall short in the eyes of critics until he achieves what his Super Bowl-winning dad did.

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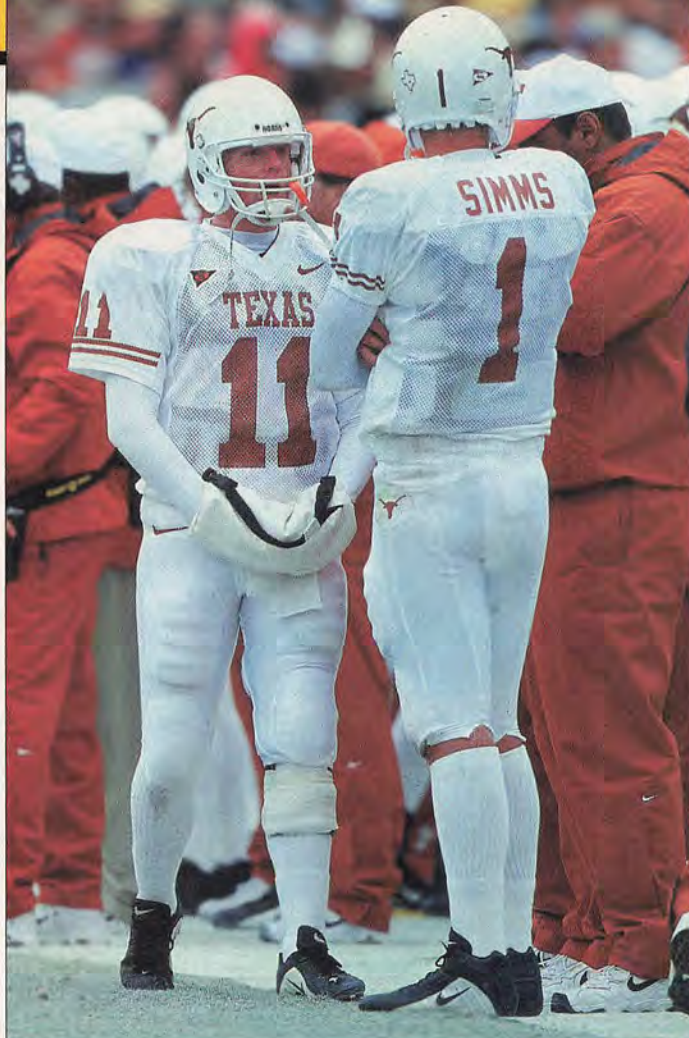


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01



THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT Applewhite (11) holds a host of Texas records, but Simms now holds the reins to the offense.

think Chris should go to school?—Bill Parcells thought carefully, then said, “Diana, listen to me. [Pause]. Are you listening?”

“Yes.”

“Cut the umbilical cord!” he said. “Just cut it! The kid’ll figure it out for himself!”

He did, but it was a tortured process. Upon returning from an October recruiting visit to Tennessee, Simms held off on making a commitment. He visited Texas a month later and had a blast. Heretical as it had been in his household, he’d grown up admiring the Dallas Cowboys in general and Troy Aikman in particular. A pigskin junkie in the gridiron backwater that is New Jersey, he was fascinated by the football culture of the Lone Star State. “From high school to the NFL, football is a religion in this state, and Chris was drawn to that,” says Tim Brewster, the Texas tight ends coach who recruited him. Simms got along well with his Longhorns hosts and fellow recruits, and went away impressed by what he remembers as an absence of factions on the squad. (Little did he know that his rivalry with Applewhite would sorely test that unity.)

Even after orally committing to Tennessee in mid-December—at a televised press conference in Madison Square Garden—Simms still regaled his high school buddies with stories of his visit to Texas. He rose early on New Year’s Day (noon constitutes “early” for a high school senior on Christmas break) to watch the Longhorns in the Cotton Bowl. “Something was pulling at me,” he says. In late January he called Brewster and asked if Texas still had a scholarship for him. I think we can find something for you, came the reply. A few days later, more than a month after that televised press conference and three weeks after he had watched Tennessee win the national

The Eyes of Texas Are upon Them

	CLASS	GAMES	STARTS	COMPLETIONS	ATTEMPTS	COMP. PCT.	YARDS	TD	INT.	QB RATING
» Chris Simms	Jr.	16	6	86	153	56.2	1,287	10	8	137.98
» Major Applewhite	Sr.	33	27	582*	1,019	57.1*	7,974*	57*	27	136.00

*school record

sions of audibles and progressions and two-deep zones—none of it proved to be a substitute for taking snaps and dropping back in a major college game. No matter how closely he studied his father’s mistakes, Chris had to learn from his own.

In fact, his decision to attend Texas marked a major step for Chris toward becoming his own man. Recall that as a senior at Ramapo High he had whittled his college choices to Tennessee and Texas. Phil, mindful of his own past, made no secret of which school he preferred. After turning in one of the most statistically successful seasons of his NFL career in 1990, he was mired in a hotly debated and divisive quarterback controversy, eventually losing his job to Jeff Hostetler. Believing the family had already endured its share of such carnivals, he encouraged Chris to start memorizing the words to *Rocky Top* because the succession at quarterback was clear at Tennessee: After a one-year apprenticeship under senior Tee Martin, the job would belong to Chris. No muss, no fuss. At Texas he could expect to compete with Applewhite for three years.

Trying to be helpful, Chris’s mother phoned one of her husband’s former bosses. After hearing her question—*Where do you*

title with a Fiesta Bowl victory over Florida State, Simms followed his heart. He phoned the Volunteers to deliver the bad news.

Upon his arrival in Austin—and even with the grief he took for that first limo delivery—Simms’s Texas teammates quickly warmed to him. Despite his athletic gifts and pedigree he remains down to earth: one of the guys. He uncomplainingly marked time as a freshman, backing up Applewhite, who blew out his left knee in a 27–6 Cotton Bowl loss to Arkansas. While Applewhite rehabbed his surgically repaired left knee, Simms had a terrific spring. A quarterback controversy was born.

Simms represented one of the biggest recruiting coups in recent Longhorns football history, and Brown ached to see what Simms could do. The coach soon felt an ache of a different sort. In the season opener, against the designated crash-test dummies of Louisiana-Lafayette, Simms got the start and threw an interception that was returned for a 43-yard touchdown as the Ragin’ Cajuns jumped to a 10–0 first-quarter lead. Simms immediately got the hook, only returning to the game after Applewhite had put it out of reach. The revolving door was set in motion. Over the next

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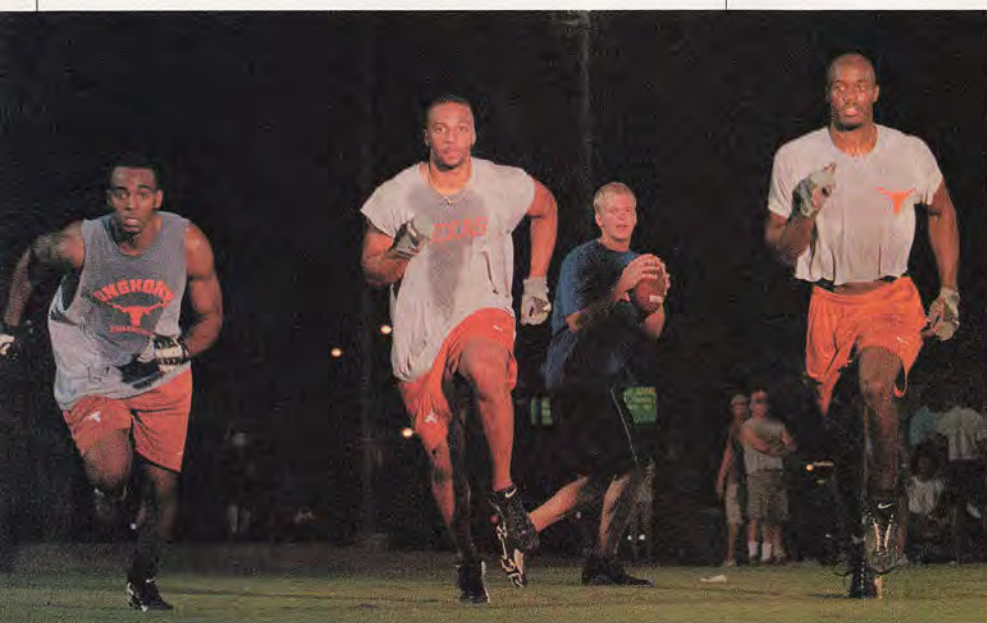
three games the quarterbacks split time, an uncomfortable arrangement that lasted until Oct. 7.

That was the day Oklahoma gangster-slapped the Longhorns all over the Cotton Bowl, punishing their Red River rivals 63-14. In an afternoon crowded with humiliating moments for Texas, the lowest belonged to Simms. Called upon to replace Applewhite with the score 28-0 (a pretty serious downer in its own right), the sophomore promptly served up an interception to linebacker Rocky Calmus, who returned the ball 41 yards for a touchdown. The next day Brown decided he was going with Applewhite as the starter for the rest of the season. Then he called Simms into his office to

his hands, carom high off his face mask and into the hands of a grateful Cougar. Three of his top receivers were true freshmen, and they didn't always run where they should have or come back to the ball. For the most part, however, Simms was trying too hard to make a big play—"forcing the ball into cracks," says Davis, the offensive coordinator. Adds Babers, Simms's roommate, "He knew if he didn't move the team in two series, one of the best quarterbacks in college football was waiting in the wings."

Simms also was trying to meet his own self-inflicted expectations. Babers recalls a recent conversation with Simms and Scaife, the tight end. "We were talking about the NFL, talking about cars

"Chris says he wouldn't be playing if he didn't want to be the best. It's crazy how high he's set the bar for himself."



SWEATING THE DETAILS Simms devoted his summer to working on his rhythm with (from left) Johnson, Thomas and Williams.

tell him that he was being demoted. "Chris was great," recalls Brown. "He said, 'The team has more confidence in Major than me right now. I don't like the decision, but I agree with you.' At the lowest moment of our season, when he could've said, 'This is unfair. I'm out of here,' he said, 'I understand completely.'"

His exile lasted for four weeks. Applewhite sprained his right knee late in the game at Texas Tech, spinning open the door for his rival, who stumbled as he went through it. On the Longhorns' second possession of the next game, at Kansas, Simms threw another interception that was returned for a touchdown. Now seems an appropriate time to ask, *What the hell is up with that?*

Some of Simms's interceptions, like any quarterback's, were the result of bum luck: Against Houston he zipped a beautiful pass to senior Montrell Flowers, who watched the ball go through


and houses and stuff. Chris asked me, 'Do you want to be the best corner ever?' I told him, 'To be honest, no. I just want to play in the league, make a little money, take care of my family.' He said, 'I wouldn't waste my time playing if I didn't want to be the best ever.' It's crazy how high he's set the bar for himself."

Crazy, but understandable, says flanker Kyle Shanahan, another of Simms's close friends on the team and another son of a famous football father. Shanahan's dad, Mike, coaches the Denver Broncos. "When you're in our situation, people think everything is handed to you," says Kyle. "You've got to work even harder to prove them wrong. Does having Phil Simms for a dad help Chris? Of course, [because he has helped] Chris understand how hard he has

to work to have success in this game, but it also puts a lot more pressure on Chris. No matter what he accomplishes, he'll fall short until he does what his dad did."

A funny thing happened after he threw that interception against Kansas. Simms smiled. He went to the sideline and said to Brown, "Can you believe that?" With Applewhite on crutches, Simms knew he could screw up royally and not get the hook. So he relaxed and played his best football of the season, leading the Longhorns to a 51-16 rout. Two weeks later, with his confidence soaring, Simms completed 16 of 24 passes for 383 yards, three touchdowns and *no interceptions* in a 43-17 win over Texas A&M. For the first time in two years at Texas, he'd lived up to his billing. The Golden Boy was golden. "I wasn't golden," he corrects. "I was pretty good."

There is a self-awareness in Simms, a sense of perspective that is missing in many exalted young athletes. He knows he must keep improving to make these Longhorns *his* Longhorns. He knows his game must continue to mature if he's going to make the leap from Prince to King. □

A photograph of five young people walking away from the camera on a grassy hill under a blue sky with clouds. From left to right: a person in a blue jacket and khaki shorts; a person in a grey and orange jacket with a backpack; a person in a red jacket riding a bicycle; a person in a white jacket and blue pants; and a person in a dark jacket with a yellow backpack. The person in the red jacket has their arm around the person in the white jacket.

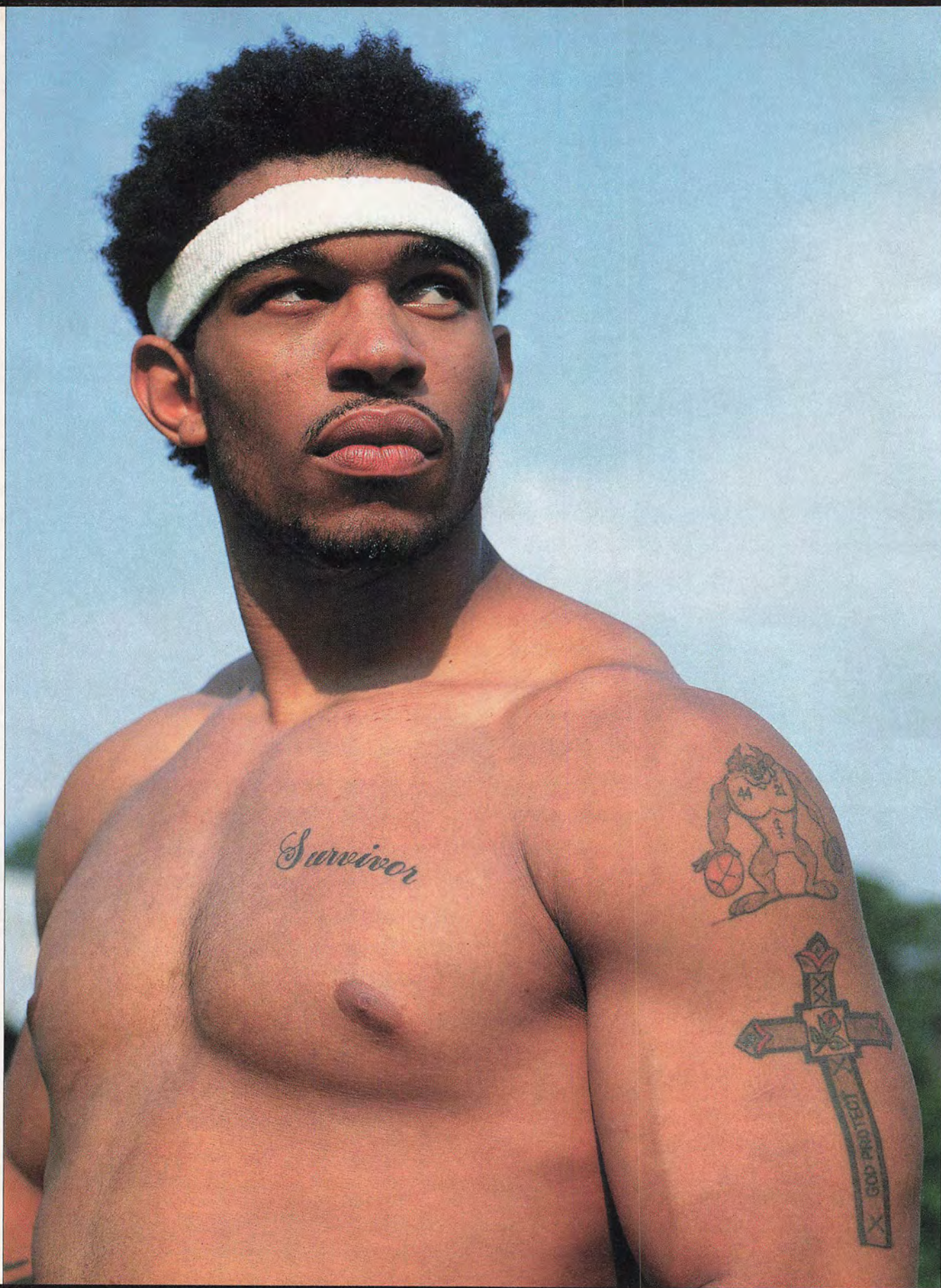
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He always loved basketball best. But now the time has come for North Carolina's Julius Peppers to devote himself to one sport year-round—and it's football

BIG HEAD never liked football much. Same as any kid with a Tobacco Road address, Julius Frazier Peppers's dreams were wrapped up in basketball. He would shoot hoops for an hour in the morning before the school bus arrived, and he'd shoot through the evening until his mother, Bessie, came out of the family's trailer home in Bailey, N.C., to fetch him for bed. Basketball was in his genes and in his name, but he didn't think about the origin of things. He was just another North Carolina kid who wanted to be Michael Jordan. ¶ Once in a while his older half-brother, Stephone, would challenge him one-on-one, but Julius preferred to play alone—just shoot and retrieve, shoot and retrieve. He never considered playing varsity football until a spring day in 1995 when Southern Nash Senior High football coach Ray Davis cut a deal with the 15-year-old freshman basketball player who at 6' 5" and 225 pounds was a foot taller than Davis and 45 pounds heavier. "I said, 'Julius, why don't you come out for football in the fall?' " Davis recalls. "I promised him we'd let him carry the ball, and his eyes lit up. The rest is history."

» Game of Choice

by Tim Crothers | photograph by Heinz Klutmeier

Peppers was the best basketball player and among the best football players ever at Southern Nash, where he received so many recruiting letters that he was given his own mail slot in the school office. In basketball he finished his career with more than 1,600 points, 800 rebounds and 200 assists and was heavily recruited by Duke. In football Peppers rushed for 3,501 yards and 46 touchdowns at tailback and man-handled opponents as a defensive lineman. In his final game, when Northeast Guilford High ran a sweep away from Peppers, he chased down the running back, stole the ball from behind and raced 90 yards the other way for a touchdown.

As a senior, Peppers placed second in the triple jump at the state track meet, despite wearing spikes two sizes too small because size 18s couldn't be found. Having watched Big Head swing a bat, Davis believes he could have been a baseball star as well. The coach still shakes his head in disbelief as he recalls a three-hour football practice on a scorching summer day before Peppers's junior season, after which all the other Firebirds lay sprawled on the grass or huddled around the water spigot. Peppers strolled over to one end zone and began doing backflips the length of the field. No hands. For 100 yards. In full pads and helmet.

He was called Big Head because he had a large hat size, not an inflated opinion of himself. "As a kid I never saw myself as unusual," Peppers says. "I always thought that lots of people could do what I did. More and more I realized I was wrong."

He wound up accepting a football scholarship to North Carolina, moving only 53 miles west of Bailey to Chapel Hill, where he could join the basketball team as a walk-on. Recruiters had convinced him that his greatest potential was in football, and as a redshirt freshman in 1999 he showed the wisdom of that judgment by leading the Tar Heels in tackles for a loss (10) and sacks (six). As a sophomore last season he displayed a lethal combination of outside rushing and bull rushing, using the explosive bursts he had developed playing hoops, to lead the nation with 15 sacks, one short of the school record Lawrence Taylor set in 1980. "He's one of those rare pass rushers who has a dominant effect on a game," Duke coach Carl Franks says. "He's simply a better athlete than any offensive tackle he faces."

Peppers has never wavered from his commitment to football, but neither has he let go of his first love. In November 1999 he joined the North Carolina basketball team, figuring that playing power forward would keep him in shape—and out of spring football practice. Although he wasn't counting on much playing time, Peppers quickly moved up the bench and into the role of sixth man. A hulking presence under the boards, he averaged 5.8 points and 4.6 rebounds in the NCAA tournament to help the Tar Heels advance to the 2000 Final Four. "Julius was a godsend, the missing piece for us," says Bill Guthridge, the basketball coach at the time. "I hate to think how that season might have ended without him."

When Peppers returned to the team last December, North Car-



JOHN BIEVER

TWO-WAY TAR HEEL Hoops always made him happy, but football will most likely make Peppers a first-round draft pick.

olina promptly ran off 15 straight wins, which vaulted it to No. 1 in the polls. Seeing mostly sixth-man duty again, he averaged 7.1 points and 4.0 rebounds. He then was North Carolina's top performer (21 points, 10 rebounds) in its second-round NCAA tournament loss to Penn State. Peppers, however, surprised himself toward the end of the 2000–01 hoops season when he began thinking ahead to football. His yearning for the sport he once barely considered was finally surpassing his childhood passion.

While scouts from the NFL and the NBA believe Peppers could excel in either league, he has made up his mind: He will remain in Chapel Hill one more year (he's on track to graduate in 2003 with a degree in African-American studies), and he won't play basketball. Over the summer he made a full-scale commitment to training. That means working out five days a week for three to four hours a day and increasing his weight by 15 pounds, to 285. "You go through cycles playing two sports when it gets draining," Peppers says. "You spend a lot of time catching up to teammates who play one sport all

says Ronald Curry, a Tar Heels senior who plays football (quarterback) and basketball (point guard). "The best compliment you can give him is he's such a natural at both sports that when he's playing one, you forget he's just as good at the other."

GEORGE KURNEY grew up in Sims, three miles east of Bailey, during the 1960s. He shot baskets every day on a dirt court in his yard and dreamed of being Oscar Robertson. By the time Kurney had reached the ninth grade at Rock Ridge High, he could

"Julius is such a natural that when he's playing one sport, you forget he's just as good at the other," says Curry.

year. I'll miss basketball, but I think I'll be a much better football player now that I'm training for it like a normal player."

On Peppers's left arm is a tattoo of the Tasmanian Devil holding a football in his left hand and a basketball in his right. The sports world has become accustomed to two-sport stars, from Deion Sanders to Bo Jackson to Brian Jordan. At 6' 6" entering his junior year of eligibility, Peppers may be the largest, most intimidating model to date. He bench-presses 425 pounds, runs the 40 in 4.5 seconds, has a 37.5-inch vertical leap and only 4% body fat. During Peppers's redshirt year the North Carolina football coaches couldn't decide at which position he might wreak the most havoc, so they listed him on the roster as *athlete*. "Julius is a freak of nature,"

dunk with either hand. Rock Ridge coach James Kent told Kurney that he had the potential to play college ball, but the next season Kurney quit the team. His father, William, had died two years earlier, and his mother, Mildred, had taken a job in the evenings. So if George missed the bus after school to stay for basketball practice, he had to walk the six miles home. Shortly after he dropped basketball, he dropped out of school. He worked odd jobs while becoming a recreation-league hoops mainstay, even playing in a charity game in Wilson, N.C., against NBA-bound Len Bias a week before Bias died of a cocaine overdose.

In 1979 Kurney was driving to a rec game when he spotted Bessie Peppers standing on her porch. A few weeks later he asked

her out, and they began a two-year relationship that on Jan. 18, 1980, produced a nine-pound, 14-ounce baby boy. Sensing the tenuousness of their bond, both parents put their stamp on the boy's name. George took the first name from Julius Erving and the middle name from Walt Frazier, NBA stars whose style he admired. Peppers came from Bessie's first husband, Clarence Peppers, whom she had divorced in '78.

George all but vanished from Julius's life before he was seven, leaving Bessie to raise their son. Although Kurney now lives in Bailey, a half mile from Bessie, he and Julius speak infrequently. "A lot of people tell me that I could have done what Julius is doing," says Kurney, age 41. "He got his size from me, and he's using it to fulfill the dream that I never experienced. I hope someday he'll decide to share it with me." Julius says he has no plans to invite his father into his



SCOTT SHARPE/THE NEWS & OBSERVER

life. "He and I talk sometimes, but not like a father and son," Peppers says. "It's too late for that, but he is my father so I'm not going to ignore him."

One night after a basketball game at Southern Nash, Kent told Julius how much he reminded him of George Kurney. Julius pointedly informed Kent that Kurney was his father, but that he was his mother's son. Bessie made sure Julius was a well-

urine modeled after Rodin's *The Thinker* and made by Bessie. It sits on top of the television in his off-campus apartment. "I see myself in that statue," Peppers says. "I sometimes catch myself in a daze for 15 minutes, thinking."

"There are really two Juliuses," Bessie says. "He's normally a quiet, shy, thoughtful kid, but when he puts on a uniform, he can become quite a bully."

"He's normally a shy, thoughtful kid," says Bessie, "but when he puts on a uniform, he can become quite a bully."



HENRY KUTMEIER

SETTING HIM STRAIGHT While raising Julius, Bessie never hesitated to let her son know when his behavior was out of line.

mannered boy. He hasn't forgotten the night in 11th grade when Bessie spotted him chewing gum at halftime of a basketball game. She equated gum chewing with showboating, so she climbed out of the bleachers, popped her son upside the head and made him spit his gum into her hand. Big Head never made that mistake again. Even now, after a sack or a dunk, he heads quietly back to the huddle or downcourt as if nothing had happened.

Among Peppers's most prized possessions is a gray ceramic fig-

LAST JAN. 11 Peppers announced that he would not leave school for the 2001 NFL draft, even though some scouts were projecting him among the top 10 picks. Two days later, after Peppers had 13 points and nine rebounds in an 84-54 win over Marquette, Tar Heels basketball coach Matt Doherty began his postgame press conference by saying, "I'd like to announce that Julius Peppers will not be entering the NBA draft."

NFL scouts acknowledge that Peppers has the potential to be the No. 1 selection in the 2002 draft. "I still believe that if I committed to basketball, I could make an impact in the NBA," says Peppers. "But my coaches say that in football I could be another Lawrence Taylor or Jevon Kearse. I now see football as my job and my greatest challenge."

Because of his outstanding NCAA tournament play on national television, as opposed to the North Carolina football team's combined 9-13 record in 1999 and 2000, most casual sports fans still think of Peppers as a basketball player. He'll get a national-TV showcase for his gridiron skills on Aug. 25 when the Tar Heels open at defending champion Oklahoma. Peppers needs 12 sacks to break Greg Ellis's school career record (32.5), but he's more interested in expunging a rap that he doesn't go all out on every snap. "On a learning curve of zero to 10, Julius is still a five," says North Carolina coach John Bunting, who played 11 years at linebacker in the NFL. "That room for growth should be exciting to him and scary to everybody else."

"Now that he's focused on football, I think he'll become a prototype for the next generation of defensive ends," says Illinois assistant coach Donnie Thompson, who coached Peppers at Chapel Hill for the last two seasons. "He's got all the ingredients to never get blocked."

Once a week Peppers drives 25 miles to a Krispy Kreme in Raleigh and buys a dozen glazed doughnuts. He tries to take a different route sometimes, roads less traveled, maybe even get lost for a while. During these trips he occasionally reflects on another ride he used to make regularly. After high school football practices assistant coach Brian Foster would drive Peppers home, and as he turned into the dirt driveway, Foster would sometimes point out a group of old men drinking whiskey on the stoop of a house near Peppers's basketball goal. "Julius, you can be an All-America or you can be a nobody," Foster said each day. "What are you going to be?" □

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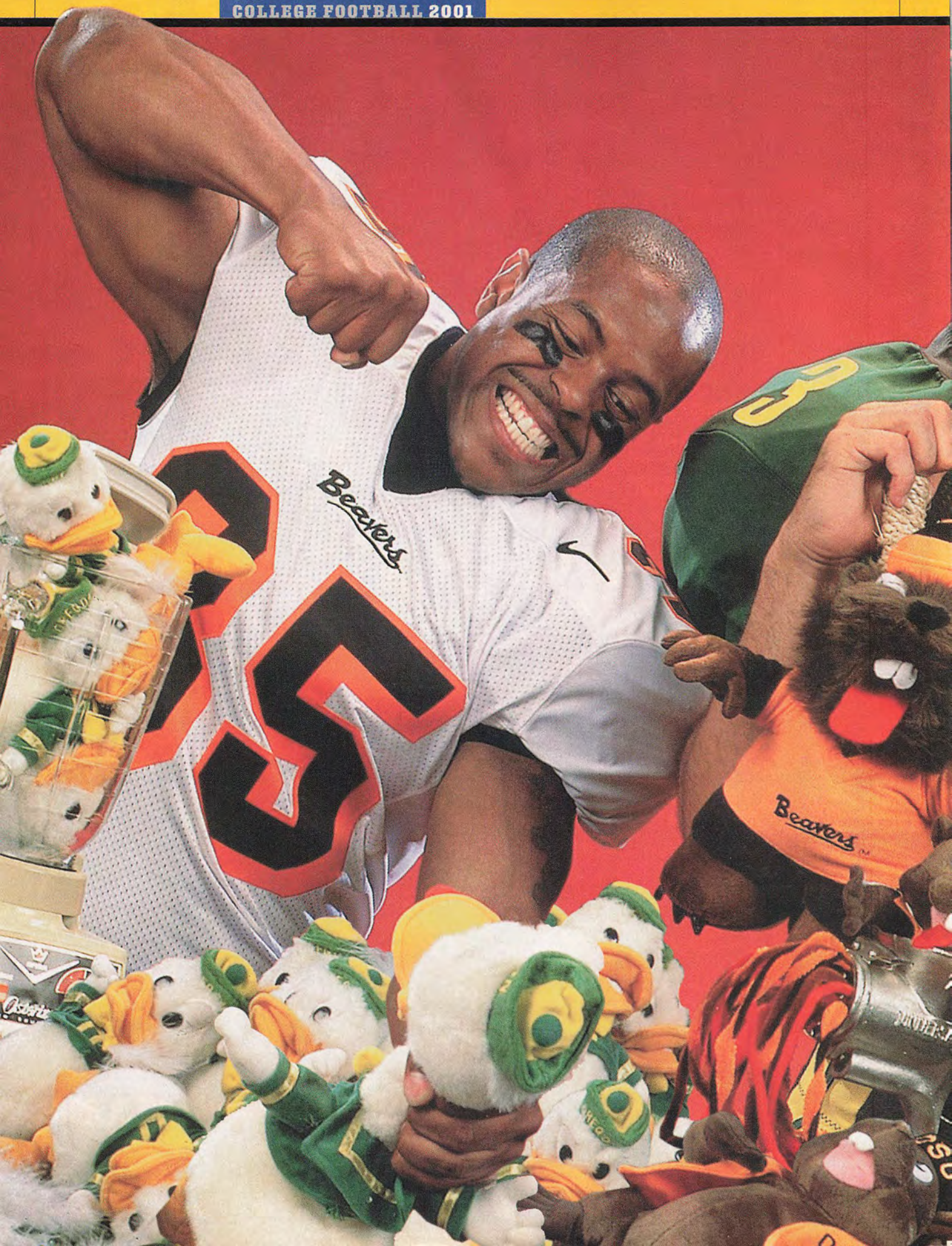
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HEISMAN HYPE used to be so simple. Back in the last century (say, 1997), if you were an underexposed school in the Pacific Northwest (say, Washington State), you would just grab some leaves, stuff them into envelopes, and then mail them to a few hundred writers who vote for the award. Presto, Ryan Leaf for the Heisman Trophy!

These days, a Heisman campaign requires far more than a little ingenuity. Take Oregon. In June, still glowing from their first 10-win season, the national title contenders from Eugene began promoting the candidacy of senior quarterback Joey Harrington by commissioning a billboard. Not just any billboard, but a 10-story, leap-tall-buildings-in-a-single-bound billboard. In New York City. Right across from Madison Square Garden.

The Joey Heisman billboard cost Ducks boosters \$250,000 and sent the national title contenders at Oregon State, 37 miles north in Corvallis, into a tizzy. After all, the Beavers, still glowing from their first 11-win season, have an even stronger Heisman candidate, senior tailback Ken Simonton, a Barry Sanders-style slasher who could become the first player in Pac-10 history to rush for 1,000 yards in four seasons. Those nouveaux riches Ducks couldn't one-up them *now*, Beavers alumni roared. Six public relations firms were invited to design Simonton-for-Heisman campaigns, and the proposal that won included a dynamite hook: a 12-inch-tall action figure, Li'l Ken, with removable helmet and pads, and a li'l Heisman Trophy that Ken could hold in his li'l plastic hands.

One problem: Li'l Ken was cute, and the Beavers don't *do* cute. The p.r. firm was hired, but with a caveat: Lose Li'l Ken. "We won't go the route of an advertising campaign," says Oregon State athletic director Mitch Barnhart. "We're not some corporate giant that can throw dollars at problems. Ore-

Oregon and Oregon State both have Heisman candidates and national title hopes, so their cute little rivalry has suddenly turned very, very serious

by Grant Wahl

photograph by Rich Frishman

State

« Simonton (left) and Harrington ensure that feathers and fur will fly when the Ducks meet the Beavers.

gon has the Madison Avenue look, and we're the ol' junkyard dog."

About the only thing these two schools have in common is their sudden and unlikely national prominence. Last season, in the Pac-10's most topsy-turvy year in decades, the Beavers and the Ducks shared the league title with Washington. In two seasons Beavers coach Dennis Erickson has gone 7-5 and then 11-1 at a school that hadn't had a winning record in 28 years, while Oregon has won more games (49) than any other team in the Pac-10 since coach Mike Bellotti took over six years ago. Both schools' season ticket packages are sold out, and both coaches have turned down entreaties from some of the nation's most storied programs. (USC wooed Erickson in December 2000, and Ohio State courted Bellotti at about the same time.) This season's Oregon-Oregon State showdown is so tantalizing that ABC has moved it back two weeks, to Dec. 1, Championship Saturday, to be shown nationally between the Big East and Big 12 title games.

It's the most fascinating rivalry in college football, 2001 edition, and in the drought-stricken Willamette Valley, venom is more plentiful than water these days. From the Beavers' standpoint, Oregon is a Grateful Dead-listening, granola-munching hippie school with a high-gloss football team bankrolled by Nike co-founder (and Ducks alum) Phil Knight. The Ducks regard Oregon State as a redneck school with a suddenly potent football team run by a renegade coach who gives free reign to renegade players, particularly junior college mercenaries.

The Ducks and the Beavers: They sound as if they'd be so playful and Disneyfied—but then the players open their mouths. "We're a classier team. Oregon State is more the clowning type," says Oregon cornerback Rashad Bauman, pointing to Oregon State's 41-9 Fiesta Bowl win last season over Notre Dame, in which the Beavers racked up 18 penalties, five of them for personal fouls or taunting. "We don't need to showboat and get out of hand for our crowd to get into the game. We carry ourselves in a different way."

The Beavers' response? "People always want to put the rap on Coach E, that he's always getting thugs," says Simonton. "But you know what he does? He gets dudes who want to win—at all costs. I had those J.C. transfers runnin' up mountains last summer. You can take your prissy little four-year college boys with trust funds,



The Beavers think Oregon is a hippie school; the Ducks think Oregon State's coach and players are renegades.

and I'll take these J.C. dudes who are hungry to win, and we're gonna go bust their heads."

Is it any wonder they call this rivalry the Civil War?

The top three reasons that Beavers are better than Ducks:

1. Beavers worry about time of possession. Ducks worry about time for possession.
2. Beavers know being called "The University of California at Eugene" isn't a compliment.
3. Beavers grow their crops outdoors.

HOW DID the state of Oregon, home of loggers and joggers, displace Southern California as the epicenter of Pac-10 football? For starters, both Oregon and Oregon State credit the NCAA's 1994 mandate limiting schools to 85 scholarships, preventing USC and UCLA

from stockpiling all the top Western talent. Nowadays, the rest of the Pac-10 recruiters descend on the Golden State like invading armies. "There are 3.4 million people in Oregon," says Bellotti, "but there are three million people within a stone's throw of the L.A. Coliseum." So the Beavers' and the Ducks' rosters will boast nearly twice as many Californians as Oregonians this fall. For the most part, though, Oregon and Oregon State have taken different paths to success. To wit:

Oregon State's "Quick Fix" The best way to change Oregon State's losing mentality, Simonton says, was simple. "It's just like any business," he says. "You get rid of a lot of people. When we got here as freshmen, most of the seniors were used to losing. Me and [strong safety] Calvin Carlyle tried to organize Saturday conditioning one time, and nobody showed up. So that spring Calvin was walking around here like, 'I'm glad some of you seniors are leaving.'"

When former Beavers coach Mike Riley left after a 5-6 season



in '98 to coach the San Diego Chargers, Oregon State hired Erickson, who had just been fired after four mediocre years with the Seattle Seahawks. Although he'd won two national titles during a six-year stint with the Miami Hurricanes, Erickson, who is a native of Everett, Wash., has always felt more comfortable coaching in small Western college towns—places like Moscow, Idaho, and Laramie, Wyo. He walked into his first players meeting in Corvallis wearing the two national championship rings from his Miami days and announced that his goal was to win the Pac-10. "Our staff has been in the NFL," says Erickson, "and we've been successful wherever we've been at the college level." He installed his user-friendly spread offense, maximizing the talents of Simonton (SI, Nov. 13, 2000) and quarterback Jonathan Smith, and he beat the recruiting bushes, signing 16 juco transfers during his first year.

"Quick fix" is a verboten term in Corvallis, especially after ABC's Sean McDonough ripped the Beavers during the Fiesta Bowl broadcast for signing so many juco transfers since Erickson's arrival. "ABC didn't know what they were talking about," says Erickson, and his boss Barnhart remains fiercely unrepentant. "We're not gonna back down from recruiting junior college athletes," says Barnhart. Whatever you may think of them,

ACTION FIGURE Simonton, swarmed by Ducks in last year's game, may be the stronger of the state's two Heisman hopefuls.

Erickson's Beavers compete with a swagger reminiscent of their coach's old Miami teams. "He lets us play with emotion, and the guys have thrived on that," says Smith. "He has a leash on us, but he doesn't tug it too tight unless we go way out-of-bounds."

Oregon's Building Boom Though the Ducks reached the 1995 Rose Bowl under former coach Rich Brooks, their road to the elite regions they inhabit today began in earnest with a January 1996 exchange between Bellotti and Knight soon after Colorado had hammered Oregon 38-6 in the Cotton Bowl. "He said, 'What do we need to be really good, to take that next step?'" says Bellotti. "I said, 'We need an indoor practice facility. It would be the first of its kind in the Western U.S., and it would also help for bowl games and off-season practices.'"

The \$15 million athletic center was completed in 1998, providing what Bellotti calls "the wow factor" for their recruiting. "When we didn't have the indoor facility, it was used against us," says Ducks athletic director Bill Moos. "Why would you

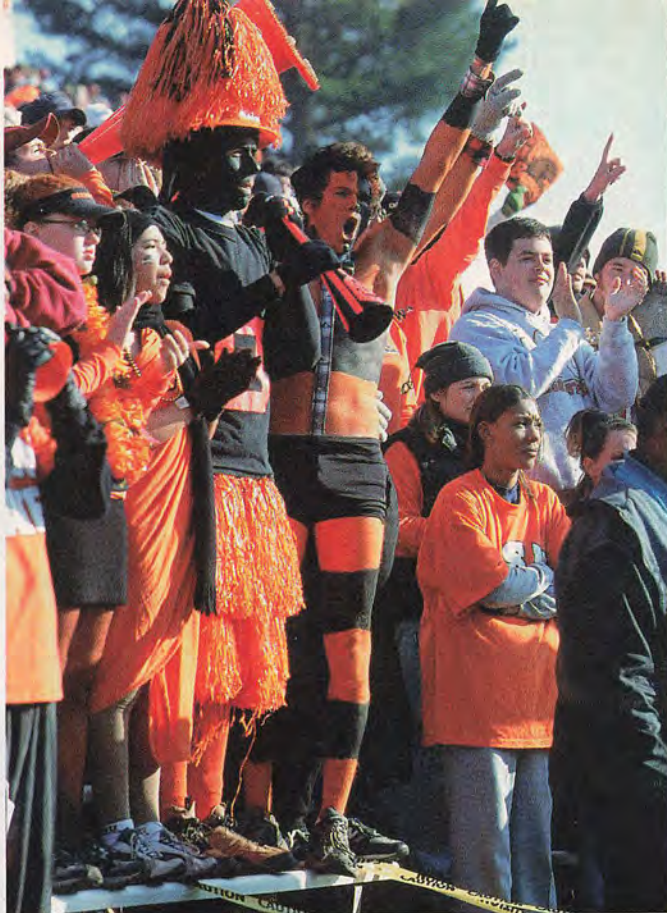


ESCALATION The Civil War was fierce even when the teams were weak, but last year's Beavers win had national implications.

come to Oregon when you can't work on your game year-round?"

Oregon's sugar daddy has been Knight, whose \$20 million in donations to the athletic program (and an additional \$30 million to the university) since 1995 rank him among the most generous boosters in college sports. It has been a problematic relationship, though, ever since April 2000, when the school expressed support for the Worker Rights Consortium, an organization that has been critical of Nike's labor practices overseas. Knight stopped attending football games and announced he would no longer donate money to the university. The school has since backed away from the WRC; while Knight's wallet remains closed, he resumed attending football games late last season.

Not all the building in Eugene involves facilities. Bellotti has been hard at work building the Ducks to his own specifications. A wide receiver during his college days at UC Davis (and an offensive coordinator under Brooks at Oregon), he's the kind of gridiron wonk who gets animated talking about bubble screens, fly sweeps and double wings. "The key is to have your kids be fast," he says, "whether it's learning a scheme or playing." Still, he knows that his



task in Eugene is hardly complete. "We need to work on our depth," he says. "Our first line can play with anybody's, but we are vulnerable to key injuries. Part of that comes back to the local population base. There aren't a lot of good players in Oregon."

There are, however, a lot of new buildings. It's no coincidence that indoor practice facilities are nearing completion at Washington, Washington State and (should we have doubted?) Oregon State, which is busy planning renovations for Reser Stadium. Welcome to the arms race, Oregon style.

Q: Why did Oregon State choose orange and black for its team colors?

A: So that on Friday the players can go hunting, on Saturday they can play football, and on Sunday they can go back to work on the prison road crew.

"HEY, THAT'S *Take Five*," says Joey Harrington, correctly identifying the Dave Brubeck Quartet jazz tune playing in a reporter's car. On the next track, a trumpet takes over. "Miles Davis—*So What*," he says. The man knows his jazz. A pianist since age four—first classical, then jazz—Harrington is no doubt the only Heisman candidate who hires himself out for banquets and birthday parties. While his teammates gorge on rap and heavy metal for their pregame music, Harrington listens to Herbie Hancock.

If the Civil War is a rivalry fueled by contrasts, the most dramatic may be at quarterback. A 6' 4", 220-pound alpha male, Harrington was all but born with a fuzzy green O on his chest. His father, John, quarterbacked the Ducks in the late 1960s, and his extended family includes seven other signal-callers. You could say that the Ducks got to Joey early: Shortly after he was born, a "letter of intent" arrived in the mail, courtesy of longtime Oregon

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coach Len Casanova. Harrington is college football's version of Shane Battier, an Academic All-America (with a 3.3 GPA in business) who spends his winters leading the boisterous student cheering section at Ducks basketball games, dressing up in a flowing red wig with a troupe called the Mac Court Mullets. ("We're the Cameron Indoor Stadium of the West," he says.)

"A lot of people dream about playing for the Cowboys," says Harrington. "I always dreamed of playing college football. I'm having the greatest time in the world—living with some of my best friends in a town that adores everything the University of

says, "but he's smart, he's accurate, and he probably understands the game better than anyone else in college football." Smith had a huge game against Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl—305 yards and three touchdowns—but he says last year's 23–13 triumph in Corvallis meant even more. "Notre Dame was great," he says, "but there was something special about beating your rival for part of the Pac-10 championship." What's more, Smith outplayed Harrington, who was intercepted five times and fumbled once. "I get physically ill when I think about last year," says Harrington, who concedes that he thinks about it every day.

The Ducks got to Harrington early: Shortly after his birth Oregon's longtime coach mailed him a "letter of intent."

Oregon does." Mocking Harrington's squeaky-clean image, Ducks tight end Justin Peele gave him the nickname Princess.

In an age of game-breaking, multiple-threat quarterbacks of the Michael Vick sort, Harrington knows his limitations. "I'm not an athlete; I'm a quarterback," he says. "I don't have great speed, and I can't throw 90 yards down the field. I win games because I've done the mental preparation."

Harrington's most impressive stat isn't his Pac-10-leading 22 touchdowns and 247.3 yards passing per game of 2000; it's his 14–2 record as a starter. The mythmaker was the Ducks' 56–55 double-overtime win at Arizona State last year, in which Harrington led Oregon back from a two-touchdown deficit with less than six minutes in regulation. Says Bellotti, "When it's crunch time, it doesn't matter what he's done to that point, Joey will put the ball where it can be caught or make the audible or get a first down on a scramble to keep the drive alive."

If Harrington is the Princess in this fable, Beavers quarterback Jonathan Smith would be the Frog. Standing a gnomish 5' 10" ("five-eleven in socks," he says), Smith never attracted serious interest from Division I-A schools as a senior at Glendora (Calif.) High. Only when Riley's recruiters started pursuing Smith's Glendora teammate, offensive lineman Dustin Janz, did they notice the tiny signal-caller, and even then their pitch was lacking. "They said, 'You'd be just like a scholarship player, except you'd be paying for it,'" says Smith, whose best scholarship offers had come from Division I-AA UC Davis and Humboldt State.

So he walked on at Oregon State. During his redshirt season, Smith dutifully ran the scout team, and the following spring he surprised everyone by earning the backup job behind incoming junior college All-America Terrance Bryant. That fall, something magical happened. With Oregon State down 21 points at Washington, Smith came on in relief and gunned a 90-yard touchdown pass. Then he completed an 80-yard pass for another touchdown. By the time it was over, Smith had passed for 469 yards in barely more than a half, and although the Beavers lost 35–34, the quarterback nobody wanted had won the job. And a scholarship.

Erickson admits that when he first met Smith, he thought he was an equipment manager. "He's not a real big guy," Erickson

Yet even Civil Wars have their moments of détente. In June, Harrington and Smith, the Princess and the Frog, rode together in the back of a Pontiac convertible, greeting 350,000 screaming Portlanders as the co-grand marshals of the Rose Festival Starlight Parade. They talked about family and school and golf—and the strangest thing happened. "It was a really fun deal," says Harrington. "Jonathan is a nice person, and it was good to see him outside the football atmosphere."

A pregnant pause follows. "Of course," says Harrington, "on December 1 that's out the window." □

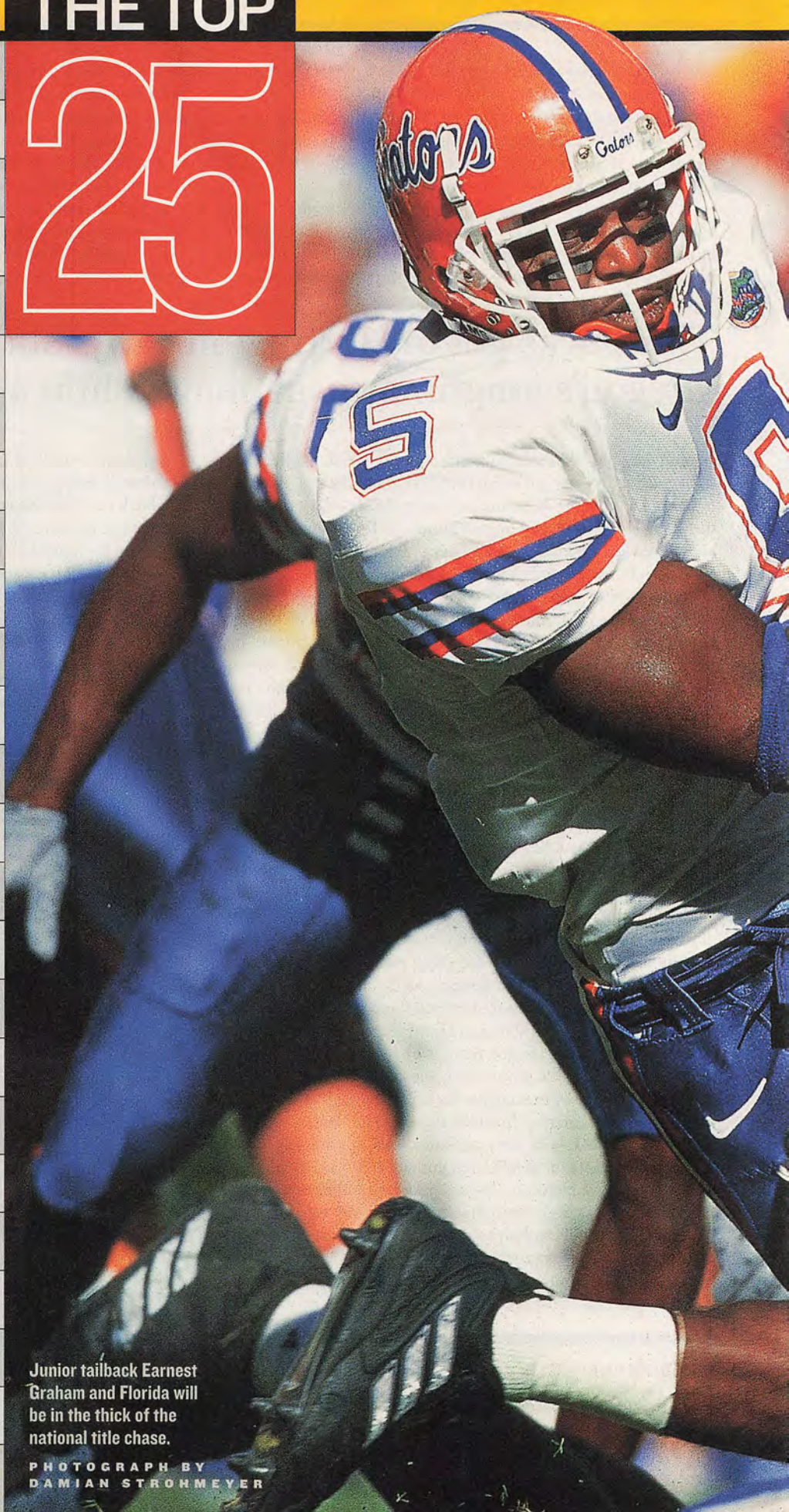


BUILDING CREDIBILITY Oregon's campaign to secure a Heisman Trophy for Harrington got big play in Manhattan.

THE TOP

25

1. Oregon State
2. Florida
3. Miami
4. Texas
5. Oklahoma
6. Florida State
7. Oregon
8. Nebraska
9. Tennessee
10. Virginia Tech
11. Georgia Tech
12. Northwestern
13. LSU
14. Michigan
15. Kansas State
16. Washington
17. Wisconsin
18. Notre Dame
19. South Carolina
20. Clemson
21. Texas A&M
22. Mississippi State
23. UCLA
24. East Carolina
25. UNLV



Junior tailback Earnest Graham and Florida will be in the thick of the national title chase.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
DAMIAN STROHMEYER

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2001

Scouting» Reports



OREGON STATE

After going 11-1 last year, the even-better

Beavers are eager to take a shot at the title

» DO YOU miss the way things used to be? Does college football's new world order make you uncomfortable? Were you startled by the occasionally thuggish manner in which Oregon State put the wood to Notre Dame in a 41-9 Fiesta Bowl win over the Irish?

Get used to it. The Beavers, who finished last season ranked fourth in the nation (and racked up 18 penalties against Notre Dame, five of them for unsportsmanlike conduct), are only getting better. The defense will be deeper, faster and more in-your-face than the Oregon State units that led the Pac-10 in total defense the last two seasons. What's more, while it may take all of September for senior quarterback Jonathan Smith to get in sync with a new crop of receivers, that's not a huge obstacle considering the Beavers open with Fresno State, New Mexico State and Montana State and then have a bye week before their conference opener, at home against UCLA.

The leading indicator of the direction in which this program is headed comes not from the number of returning starters (five apiece on offense and defense), or the \$100,000 budgeted for the Heisman campaign of sensational senior running back Ken Simonton, or even the construction of a \$10 million indoor practice facility on campus. The best clue that coach Dennis Erickson's team isn't going away anytime soon can be found among the 17 freshmen that just arrived, a handful of whom should see action this fall. There's Josh Hawkins, an explosive and coveted wideout from Long Beach (Calif.) Poly High, who chose Oregon State over defending national champion Oklahoma. There's Derek Anderson, a 6' 6", 230-pound quarterback out of Scappoose (Ore.) High who runs a 4.7 40 and threw for 3,603 yards and 40 touchdowns last year. He chose the Beavers over Florida State.

Since when do blue-chip quarterbacks opt for Corvallis over Tallahassee? Since Oregon State kicked butt in a BCS bowl

last winter. "That'll get you respect," says offensive coordinator Tim Lappano, who tries to remain calm while describing Anderson's upside: "He's got a gun. He throws with accuracy and with touch. Who knows where he can take this offense?"

It isn't likely he'll be taking it anywhere this season. Smith, the 5' 10", 202-pound former walk-on who was the offensive player of the game in that rout of Notre Dame, remains at the controls of Erickson's spread offense. He isn't concerned that three of his receivers—wideouts T.J. Houshmandzadeh and Chad Johnson, plus tight end Marty Maurer—have moved on to the NFL. Slot receiver James Newson and junior wideout Seth Trimmer looked impressive in spring practice. To add depth, the Beavers visited Jucos R Us, plucking a pair of burners.

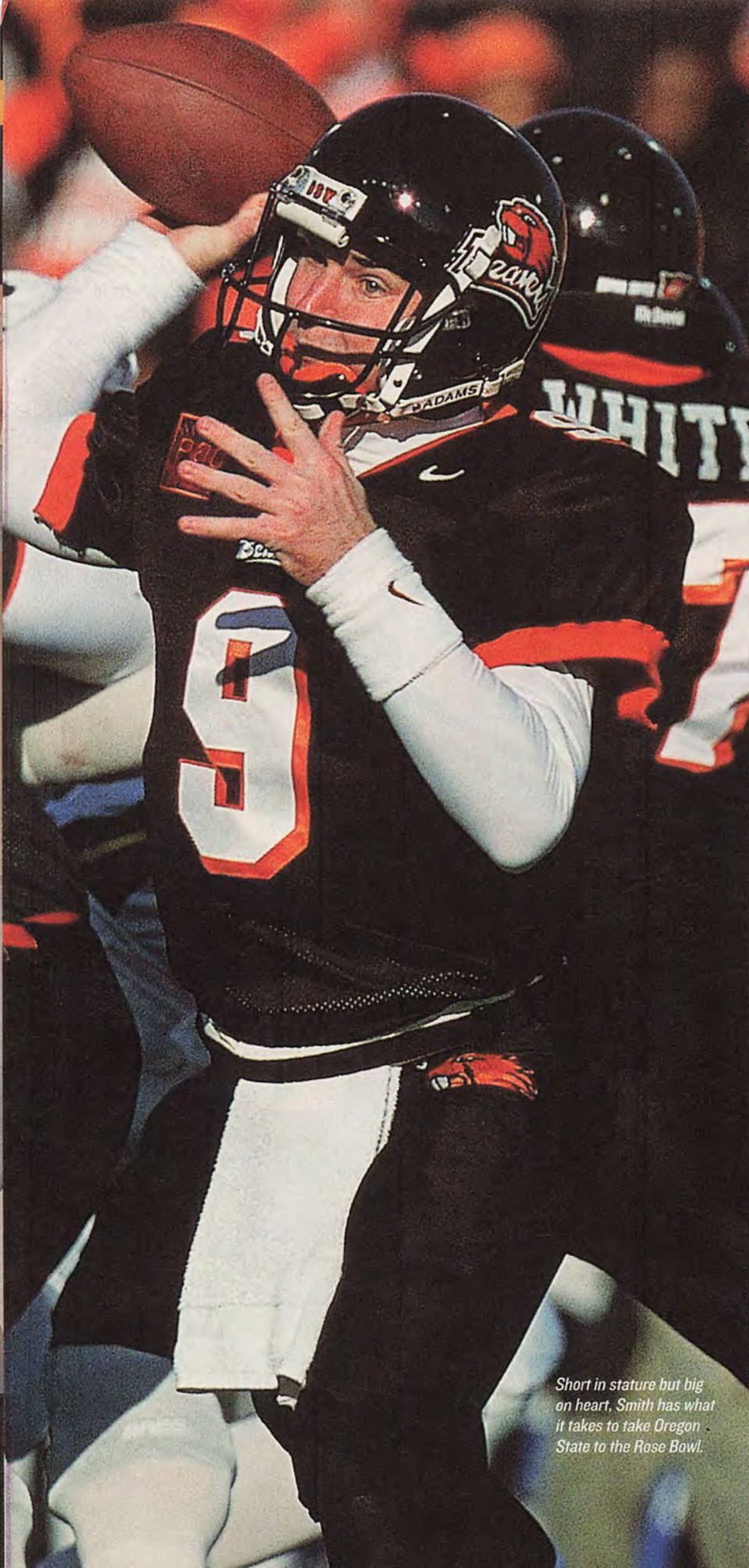
"We may not make as many big plays as we did in the passing game last year," says Smith, "but let's face it—we're not going to need as many. Our running game's going to be even better, and the defense will be flying around again."

Simonton, a 5' 11", 202-pound senior, will again be called upon to get big yards without the benefit of a blocking back. Linemen in the Beavers' single-back scheme zone block, leaving Simonton to choose the seam through which he wants to run. "He's great at it," says Smith. There is irony in the fact that the two most important players on the nation's most improved team are these sawed-off seniors. If Smith and Simonton were finishing their high school careers, they wouldn't rate a look from arriviste Oregon State. Erickson has spent three years needling Smith, telling him he can't wait until he has a quarterback to look up to. Don't believe it. "When he gets his little swagger going, we're a dangerous unit," says Simonton of Smith. "I've come to expect greatness from him."

The same must be said of the Beavers. We've come to expect greatness from them.

—Austin Murphy





Short in stature but big on heart, Smith has what it takes to take Oregon State to the Rose Bowl.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-1 (7-1, 11 in Pac-10)

Final ranking: No. 4 AP, No. 5 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

3

1,000-yard rushing seasons by Ken Simonton, who shares the Pac-10 record with six others.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

>> RB **Ken Simonton** [Sr.]

79 points shy of Pac-10 career scoring lead

>> CB **Dennis Weatherby** [Jr.]

First team All-Pac-10, had 13 pass breakups

>> QB **Jonathan Smith** [Sr.]

Needs 2,141 yards for school passing record

>> LB **Richard Seigler** [So.]

72 tackles, three interceptions as freshman

>> K **Ryan Cesca** [Jr.]

94 points last fall is team record for kicker

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Beavers

“First thing that comes to mind is talent. **Dennis Erickson** has brought in junior college kids whom no one could get straight out of high school. . . . **Ken Simonton** is probably the best running back in the country. A one-back scheme is perfect for this kid to run through, he is so powerful. His backup, **Patrick McCall**, is pretty good too; they don't fall off at all when he comes into the game. . . . On offense the Beavers' only concern will be filling in the gaps on the line. . . . Defensively, their speed stands out more than anything. It's the fastest defense in the Pac-10. They have a blitzing, attacking style, and all of their guys have the ability to make the big play. . . . The secondary tends to be well coordinated and has a great cornerback

in **Dennis Weathersby**. He does a good job of taking away one side of the field. . . . Their front seven is still strong, despite losing the two best ends in the league. If Oregon State can fill those two spots adequately, this year's team has a chance to be just as tough as last year's.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 45th of 117

Sept. 2	at Fresno State
8	at New Mexico St.
15	MONTANA STATE
29	UCLA
Oct. 6	at Washington State
13	ARIZONA
20	at Arizona State
27	CALIFORNIA
Nov. 3	at USC
10	WASHINGTON
Dec. 1	at Oregon

JOHN W. McDONOUGH

FLORIDA

The Gators' toughest task may be choosing which passer will run their potent attack

» COACH STEVE SPURRIER knows his team is loaded and has a chance to win its second national championship in five years. At the same time, he realizes that much of the talent on this team is raw, and throughout the summer he has tried to keep his players from getting cocky. "I tell our guys all the time that we're not that good yet," says Spurrier. "We have back a lot of players [18 starters] and have a chance to [win the national title] if we work hard, but anyone who thinks we're a great team now is fooling himself. Last year we were eighth in the SEC in total defense, 11th in rushing offense and last in time of possession—and we don't know who our quarterback will be. Trust me, we have a lot of work ahead of us."

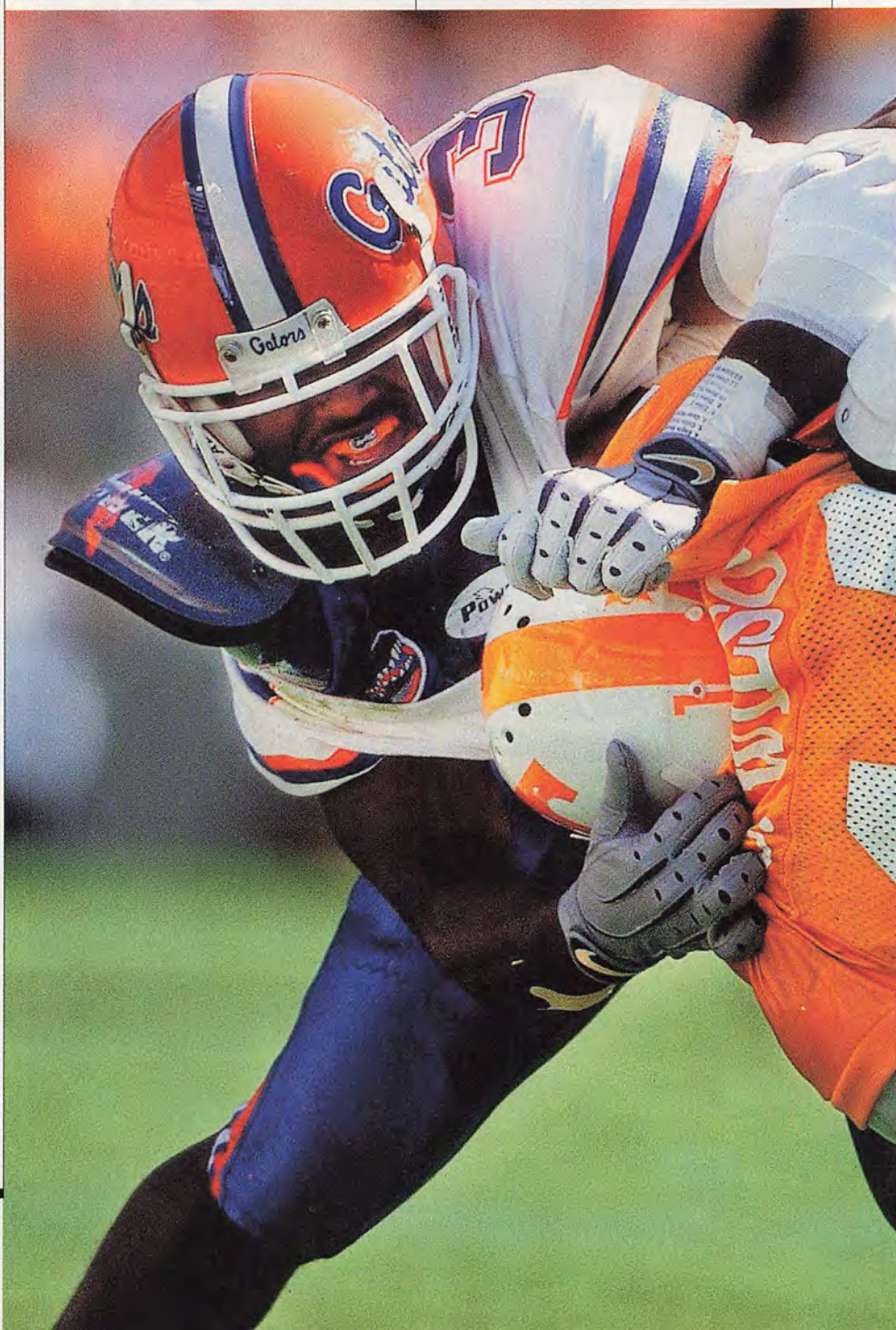
Choosing a quarterback is Spurrier's primary dilemma. Sophomore passers Rex Grossman and Brock Berlin are locked in a battle that might last until the first week of the season. Spurrier, who has been known to alternate quarterbacks on every down, says whoever emerges as the starter will be given the opportunity to play full time. Grossman, who started eight games last fall and threw for 1,866 yards and 21 touchdowns, is more experienced, but Berlin, who was the 1999 USA Today Offensive Player of the Year and played sparingly in four games for the Gators in 2000, is considered to have the better arm.

"Both guys throw the ball well, and the guy who wins the job will probably be the smarter one," says Spurrier, a Heisman Trophy winner and former NFL quarterback who is entering his 15th season as coach at his alma mater. "Rex was instrumental in four victories for us last year, but he has to eliminate the bad plays. Brock is coming along nicely, but he hasn't played much. We hope one of the two will separate himself from the other. Our best years have been when we've had a quarterback who is definitely the guy." (Senior Danny Wuerffel

started all 12 games in '96, plus the 52-20 Sugar Bowl win over Florida State.)

Whoever wins the quarterback derby will benefit from an experienced line, led by All-SEC senior tackle Mike Pearson

and senior center Zac Zedalis (out for most of the last two seasons because of injuries), and one of the top receiving corps in the country. Sophomore wide-out Jabar Gaffney is coming off a spectacular year, in which he set NCAA freshman records for catches (71) and receiving yards (1,184) and had 14 touchdowns. If he draws double coverage, juniors Reche Caldwell (760 yards, six touchdowns) and Taylor Jacobs (11.6 yards per catch) are skilled alternatives. The running attack, which produced only 110.5 yards per game last year, should im-



DAMIAN STROHMAYER

prove because senior Robert Gillespie (678 yards, five touchdowns) and junior Earnest Graham (676, six touchdowns) are more seasoned, and highly touted red-shirt freshman Willie Green, who scored a Florida high-school-record 107 career touchdowns but missed last year after having surgery on both knees, is healthy.

Featuring two big-play performers, junior cornerback Lito Sheppard (team-leading six interceptions in 2000) and senior end Alex Brown (11½ tackles for loss, including 7½ sacks), Florida's defense figures to be one of the nation's best. Senior

linebacker Andra Davis, who made 109 tackles in 1999, is back after missing most of last season with a torn ligament in his right knee.

As usual, the schedule is daunting, but the Gators play Tennessee, Mississippi State and Florida State at home. "We have a lot of guys who can play," says Spurrier, "but with our schedule, who knows?" He pauses, slouches in his chair and finally admits the opportunity to win a national championship is there for the taking. His sly grin suggests he's playing with a stacked deck. —B.J. Schecter



FAST FACTS

2000 record: 10-3 (8-1, 1st in SEC East)

Final ranking: No. 10 AP, No. 11 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

185

Weeks in a row, dating to 1990, that Steve Spurrier's Gators have been in the AP Top 25.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

>> DE **Alex Brown** [Sr.]

Two-time Lombardi Trophy semifinalist

>> OT **Mike Pearson** [Jr.]

13 starts after fracturing skull in July 2000

>> WR **Jabar Gaffney** [So.]

Gators' first freshman All-America wideout

>> CB **Lito Sheppard** [Jr.]

Gained 37.4 yards per game as KR-PR

>> K **Jeff Chandler** [Sr.]

School's alltime leading scorer (265 pts.)

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Gators

“ This could be the most explosive offense in the country. Either quarterback, **Rex Grossman** or **Brock Berlin**, is going to create problems, but they're not so drastically different that you change your defensive calls. They can both make the throws they need to make because **Steve Spurrier's** system takes advantage of what the defense is doing. . . . The receivers [**Jabar Gaffney** and **Reche Caldwell**] make you work from sideline to sideline. Tight end **Aaron Walker** can stretch you up the middle. . . . [New defensive line coach] **Ricky Hunley** will toughen up end **Alex Brown**. Brown's a dog. He made big plays, but he doesn't show up when they need him. Great players play every down. . . . Their coaches are lazy when it comes to recruiting. They rely on the Florida name. You see them signing good players on offense because of the draw of Spurrier, but since they lost [defensive coordinator] **Bob Stoops** they haven't had the same success recruiting defensive players. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 15th of 117

Sept. 1 MARSHALL
8 LOUISIANA-MONROE
15 TENNESSEE
22 at Kentucky
29 MISSISSIPPI STATE

Oct. 6 at LSU
13 at Auburn
27 GEORGIA*

Nov. 3 VANDERBILT
10 at South Carolina
17 FLORIDA STATE

*At Jacksonville

Sheppard, who had a team-high six interceptions last fall, leads a defense that can head off any scoring threat.

MIAMI

The Hurricanes rode out a stormy off-season and stayed on course for another title run

» WHEN COACH Butch Davis left to take over the Cleveland Browns on Jan. 29, nine days before national signing day, it seemed as though the Hurricanes might struggle again, as they had in the mid-'90s. The Miami players felt betrayed because Davis had repeatedly told them he would remain with the program, and rival coaches suddenly were back sniffing around a strong group of recruits who had orally committed to Davis. What's more, the administration was looking outside the program for Davis's replacement, courting, among others, Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez, who presumably would bring in a new system.

In the end Alvarez stayed put and, to the delight of the Hurricanes, veteran Miami offensive coordinator Larry Coker was promoted. "When Coach Coker was hired, it was a big relief because we knew that nothing would change," says junior quarterback Ken Dorsey. "We knew that we could compete for the national championship."

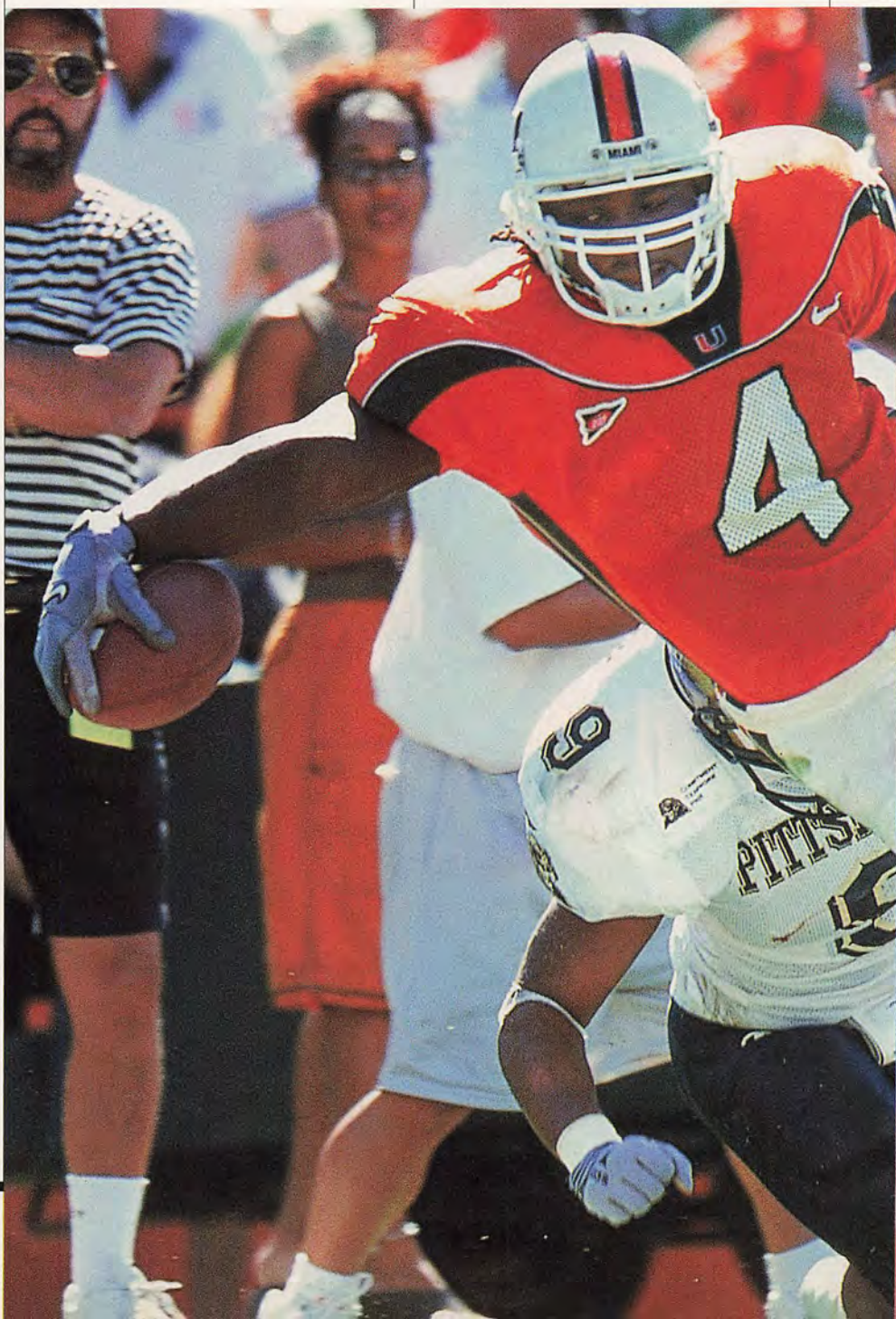
With 14 starters returning from an 11-1 team that proved it was back among college football's elite by defeating Florida State, Virginia Tech and, in the Sugar Bowl, Florida, Miami will be a leading contender to win the national title, which it last won in 1991. The Hurricanes, who ended the season ranked No. 2, have as much talent as any team in the nation despite having lost four starters who were first-round NFL draft choices.

The key to Miami's championship hopes is Dorsey, who last season threw for 2,737 yards and 25 touchdowns while being intercepted only five times. He will be protected by an experienced line anchored by two senior All-America tackles, Bryant McKinnie, who didn't allow a sack last season, and Joaquin Gonzalez. Dorsey, however, will be working without an established receiver, and that will force him to assume a greater leadership role, something he relishes.

"I understand what's expected of me,"

says Dorsey. "For the first time in my career I have to go to guys and tell them what to do. We don't have a Santana Moss or a Reggie Wayne anymore. We all have to work together."

The 53-year-old Coker, who was the Hurricanes' offensive coordinator for the past six seasons, says he will have an offensive philosophy similar to Davis's but hopes to put more emphasis on the running game. Despite losing last season's leading ground gainer, James Jackson, Miami should be able to run the ball because of a trio of talented backs: senior Najeh Davenport, who gained 308 yards last fall; junior Clinton Portis, who averaged a team-high 6.3 yards per carry last year; and sophomore Jarrett Payton, son of the late Walter Payton.



The loss of Butkus Award-winning middle linebacker Dan Morgan to the Carolina Panthers leaves a major hole on defense, which is why sophomore D.J. Williams, the 1999 *USA Today* [high school] Defensive Player of the Year, will move back to linebacker after playing fullback last season. The secondary is loaded, led by senior strong safety Edward Reed, who was third in the nation last season with eight interceptions, and cornerbacks Phillip Buchanon, a junior, and Mike Rumph, a senior.

To compete for the national champi-

onship Miami will have to win at Penn State, Florida State and Virginia Tech, but the Hurricanes insist they have already won the most important fight with the hiring of Coker. "Right now everyone is feeling pretty good," Coker says. "The players went to battle for me, and I have a responsibility to them to keep this program on the right track. There's no uncertainty. They're comfortable with me, and I'm comfortable with them. Before Coach Davis left, we had our sights set on a national championship. That's not going to change." —B.J.S.



FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-1 (7-0, 1st in Big East)

Final ranking: No. 2 AP, No. 2 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

14

Touchdowns needed by quarterback Ken Dorsey to become Miami's alltime leader.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

>> QB **Ken Dorsey** [Jr.]

2,727 passing yards, only five interceptions

>> LT **Bryant McKinnie** [Sr.]

6' 9", 335-pounder is a line coach's dream

>> RB **Clinton Portis** [Jr.]

Runs of 82 and 61 yards in a reserve role

>> RT **Joaquin Gonzalez** [Sr.]

Allowed just two sacks in his last 23 games

>> SS **Edward Reed** [Sr.]

Big East leader with eight interceptions

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Hurricanes

“They're loaded. They've always had great skill kids, but they're different now because they're so good up front. Miami really tries to pound you more than ever before. . . . **Ken Dorsey** is an extremely poised quarterback and very accurate. He's got a good head on his shoulders and is difficult to rattle. . . . The Hurricanes lost some big-play receivers but still have a lot of speed at that position. **Daryl Jones** is as fast as Santana Moss and should emerge as their big-play guy. . . . It's going to be interesting to see if they can sustain their intensity on defense. [Former defensive coordinator] **Greg Schiano** had them playing hard, and he kept you off-guard. They played basic defense until third

down and then threw the book at you. . . .

Their secondary is the best in the nation.

Phillip Buchanon is an excellent cover corner. . . . I don't expect much difference with [coach] **Butch Davis** gone. This team has so much talent it would be hard to mess it up.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 36th of 117

Sept. 1 at Penn State
8 RUTGERS
15 WASHINGTON
27 at Pittsburgh

Oct. 6 TROY STATE
13 at Florida State
25 WEST VIRGINIA

Nov. 3 TEMPLE
10 at Boston College
17 SYRACUSE

Dec. 1 at Virginia Tech

Showing the way for a pack of mostly untested running backs will be Davenport, a senior capable of flying feats.

TEXAS

The Longhorns spent the summer talking the talk. Now it's time to walk the walk

➤ HAVING RECLAIMED the White House, Texans can now focus on the more difficult part of establishing world order: a return to the top of the college football kingdom. This is no laughing matter in the Lone Star State, particularly among Texas football players, who would huddle before and after their summer workouts, raise the Hook 'em Horns salute and break the huddle shouting, "One, two, three, Pasadena!" It's also serious business to sophomore receiver Roy Williams, whose cell phone displays ROSE BOWL! when it's turned on. "Everybody has his mind set on getting to Pasadena," Williams says. "We want to win the national championship, and if we want to win it, we need to start acting like a national championship team."

Forgive the Longhorns if they've forgotten how to walk and talk like champions: They haven't won the national title since 1970. They haven't even been ranked No. 1 since Oct. 9, 1984. Since its last championship, the program has endured bad bounces (a fumbled punt in the '84 Cotton Bowl cost Texas a 12-0 season), NCAA probation (one year in 1982 for a ticket-scalping infraction involving wide receiver Johnny "Lam" Jones), the second-worst loss in school history (66-3 to UCLA in 1997) and former coach John Mackovic's bright orange neckties.

Now the Horns, to borrow a Texas idiom, are fixin' to do something about it. Fourth-year coach Mack Brown has put together three straight unofficial top five recruiting classes, giving Texas as deep and talented a roster as the Florida States and Nebraskas. The Horns also have 17 returning starters. Above all, they're beginning to recognize how far they've come and how close they really are. "We've got talented guys and depth at every position," says junior cornerback Roderick Babers. "Now's the time to bring something home to Texas."

Yet doubts still hang over the Horns. How can a team that last year lost 63-14 to Oklahoma (a defeat that prompted some

around Austin to dub Brown a "February coach," with lots of recruits and little to show for it) be considered a serious title contender? How can a program that is 2-6 against ranked opponents over the last

two years conquer the nation's elite? How can a team that hasn't gotten past Oct. 1 undefeated since 1985 make it through Jan. 3 without a loss? How can a coach who has never won a *conference* championship win a *national* championship?

A scan of the roster provides some answers. Junior quarterback Chris Simms (page 82), who torched Texas A&M for 383 yards and three touchdowns in the regular-season finale, has displaced Major Applewhite as the leader of an offense that scored 38.6 points a game. The offensive line has back everyone but left tackle Leonard



Davis, and freshman running back Cedric Benson, who ran for 8,423 yards at Lee High in Midland (the fourth-best total in Texas schoolboy history), has the ability to play immediately. "Joe Paterno told me that you lose a game for every freshman you start," Brown says. "So maybe we'll wait until the second play to put Cedric in."

The most gifted player at Texas, and possibly in all of college football, is Williams. He's 6' 5", 210 pounds, can run 100 meters in 10.4 seconds, long-jump 25' 6" and high-jump 6' 10". He also has magnets for hands. "His physical attributes are freaky," Babers

says. "He's so big, you don't think he'll run the way he can, but he'll blow past you."

On defense—Texas ranked seventh nationally last season—the need is for speed. In an effort to combat the spread attacks the Longhorns will face (Houston, Texas Tech and Oklahoma), the coaches have moved cornerbacks to safety, safeties to linebacker, linebackers to defensive end and ends to tackle. Says Brown, "It's not a game for slow guys anymore."

He's right. Times have changed in college football. The Longhorns are counting on it.

—Gene Menez



FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-3 (7-1, 2nd Big 12 South)

Final ranking: No. 12 AP, No. 12 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

7,974

Texas record for career passing yards, held by second-string quarterback Major Applewhite.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

>> QB **Chris Simms** [Jr.]

383-yard passing day third best at Texas

>> WR **Roy Williams** [So.]

Big 12 offensive freshman of the year

>> CB **Quentin Jammer** [Sr.]

Led Horns with 20 pass breakups last fall

>> LB **De'Andre Lewis** [Sr.]

Team-record five fumble recoveries in 2000

>> DE **Cory Redding** [Jr.]

Led team with 6.5 sacks, 22 QB pressures

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Longhorns

“ They struggled running the ball last season but will emphasize it this year. . . . If you look at tape of **Chris Simms** later in the year, he looks more comfortable. You've got to take care of **Roy Williams** and the other receivers. . . . The defense, when you take its starting 11 top to bottom, could be the most talented in the country. . . . **Quentin Jammer** is a tremendous athlete, but they move him around so much. His fundamentals were shaky at corner, and he wasn't comfortable. He made good plays at safety, but he didn't have a good feel for that position. . . . The linebackers [**D.D. Lewis**, **Everick Rawls** and **Tyrone Jones**] run well. They're good sideline to sideline, but I don't know if they're physical enough.

Linebackers should be filling gaps violently. They kind of watch and get caught up in the wash. A lot of it has to do with the stunt package for the guys up front. They might get an offensive lineman to blow an assignment, but if the offensive linemen take their gap responsibility, they can stop the stunts. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 48th of 117

Sept. 1 NEW MEXICO STATE
8 NORTH CAROLINA
22 at Houston
29 TEXAS TECH

Oct. 6 vs. Oklahoma*
13 at Oklahoma State
20 COLORADO
27 at Missouri

Nov. 3 at Baylor
10 KANSAS
23 at Texas A&M
*At Dallas

JOHN WILLIAMSON

The “freaky” Williams, only a sophomore, might be the most physically gifted player in college football.

OKLAHOMA

Anyone trying to grab the Sooners' national crown will have to go through Rocky

» FOR A BLOND linebacker at Oklahoma with a tough-sounding moniker and an even tougher disposition on the football field, Rocky Calmus has surprisingly little in common with Brian Bosworth. Unlike the Boz, the self-aggrandizing Sooner who won the Butkus Award in 1985 and '86, Calmus is quiet and humble, an avid reader of the Bible who enjoys deflecting praise to his teammates. On those rare occasions when he has overtly attempted to mimic the Boz, he has come up short: When he was a kid in Jenks, Okla., his mom refused to let him get one of the Boz's patented mullet cuts, and last year in the voting for the Butkus Award, he finished second (to Dan Morgan of Miami).

While he doesn't have the hairdo or the hardware to match Bosworth, Calmus is at least more dependable. Bosworth missed one of the biggest games of his career, the 1987 Orange Bowl, after testing positive for steroids. Calmus played the biggest game of his career, the 2001 Orange Bowl, with a broken thumb. (That was nothing new for Calmus. He had nine tackles against Oklahoma State in 1999 while playing with a broken bone in his right leg, and as a seventh-grader he played in a baseball game with a broken ankle.) In the Orange Bowl he forced Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke to fumble deep in his own territory in the fourth quarter, setting up the game's only touchdown. The Calmus-led Sooners D kept the Seminoles' offense, which came into the game averaging 39.9 points, off the board, and Oklahoma won its seventh national title—but first since 1985.

"Rocky has a knack for finding his way to the football, even though most offensive schemes are designed to keep him from doing that," says coach Bob Stoops. Calmus, who has added 35 pounds to his frame since arriving at Oklahoma, has used that nose for the ball to offset the fact that he is not the most physically gifted linebacker on the team. "I don't stray too far," says Calmus of his freestyling. "I

better make the play, or I'll hear about it."

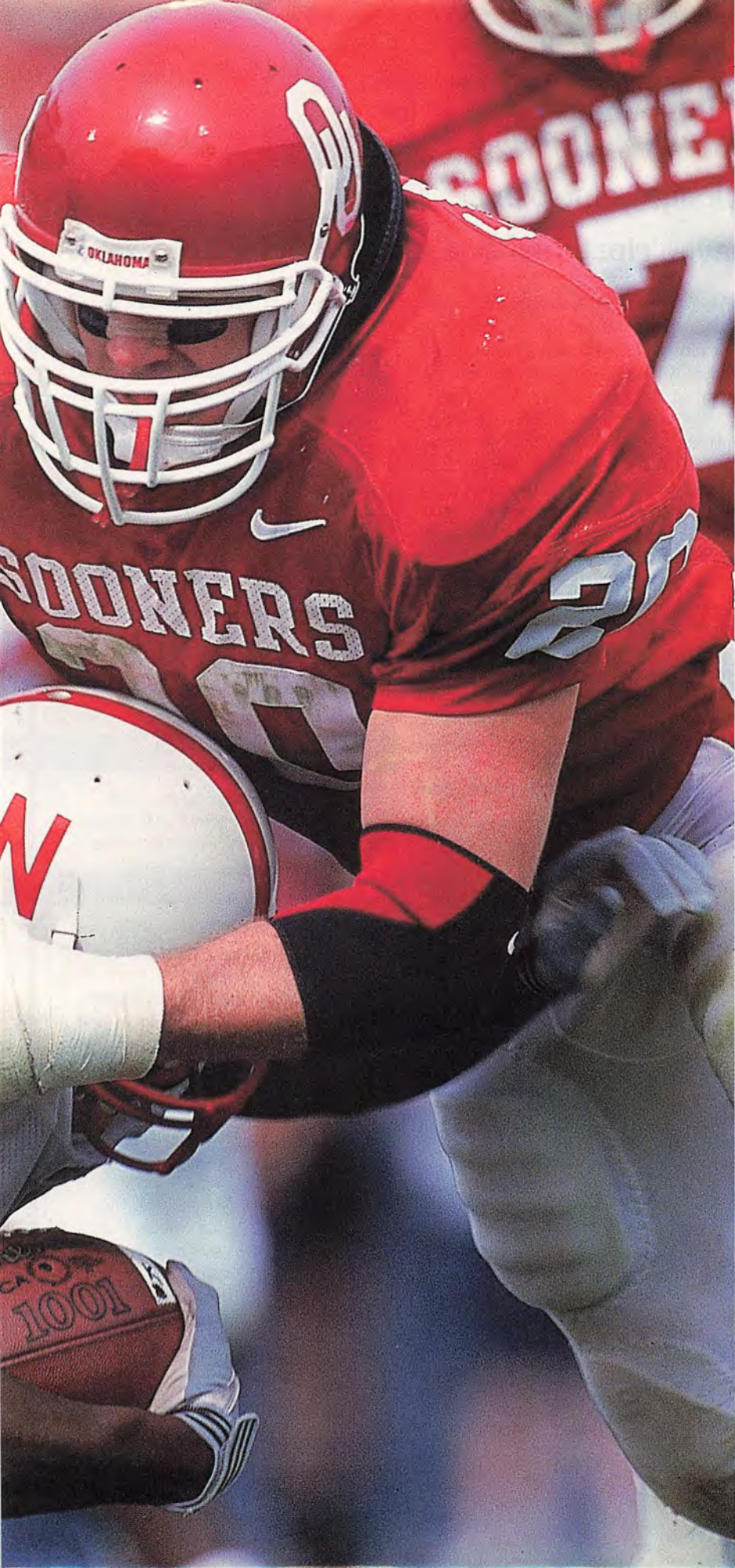
Calmus hasn't heard about it much in his three years in Norman, during which he has surpassed Bosworth's record for tackles for loss by a linebacker, with 42. Shortly after the Orange Bowl he had surgery to repair the thumb—a bone from his hip was grafted into his hand—allowing him to enjoy a rare spell of fitness. "This is the first summer I was able to lift without a cast," he says.

The prospect of a stronger Calmus leading a defense that has six starters back should make Stoops fret a little less about having to replace quarterback Josh Heupel, last year's Heisman runner-up. The two leading candidates are junior Nate Hybl and sophomore Jason White, a pair Stoops considered to be on equal footing heading into two-a-days. Before coming to Norman 2½ years ago, Stoops spent three years as an assistant to Steve Spurrier at Florida and saw firsthand the effectiveness of a dual-quarterback system. So don't be surprised to see both Hybl and White playing. "They pretty much bring the same things to the table," says Stoops. "They're big, strong guys who can run and have strong arms. The only difference is that Nate is a better golfer and Jason is a better basketball player."

Whoever is under center will have the benefit of being surrounded by a bevy of talented skill players. The top eight receivers (who accounted for 3,512 yards and 21 touchdowns) and top two rushers (Quentin Griffin and Renaldo Works, who combined for 1,216 yards and 22 scores) are back, and sophomore running back Jerad Estus was impressive in spring drills.

Last year Stoops got used to having people, as he says, "put bull's-eyes" on his team, waiting for the seemingly over-achieving Sooners to lose. This season, again, the defending national champs are sure to be marked. Waiting for them to get toppled, though, may not be a good idea. Says Stoops, "We know how to put bull's-eyes on other guys too." —Mark Bechtel





FAST FACTS

2000 record: 13-0 (8-0, 1st Big 12 South)

Final ranking: No. 1 AP, No. 1 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

16

Rushing TDs by Quentin Griffin, the most by a Sooners halfback since Billy Sims's 22 in 1979.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

>> RB **Quentin Griffin** [Jr.]

1,189 all-purpose yards (406 receiving)

>> LB **Rocky Calmus** [Sr.]

Of his 125 tackles, 17 were for a loss

>> DB **Derrick Strait** [So.]

Big 12 defensive freshman of the year

>> WR **Antwone Savage** [Jr.]

598 receiving yards, team's most since '92

>> P **Jeff Ferguson** [Sr.]

Led conference with 43.9 net average

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Sooners

“ There's dissension on the staff about who the quarterback should be. People don't realize that the Sooners didn't play good offense in their last four games. Josh Heupel put them in a lot of checks at the line. They have to incorporate a better running game. Nate Hybl and Jason White are much better runners than Heupel. I bet you'll see Oklahoma use more option and quarterback running. . . . The offensive line is more of a question mark than the quarterback. Tackle Frank Romero is a good player, and guard Howard Duncan is pretty good, but the Sooners are starting two new linemen, including redshirt freshman Wes

Sims at right tackle. . . . Roy Williams has to be the best safety in the country. Antonio Perkins might be better than either of the corners who played last year. [Co-defensive coordinator] Mike Stoops thinks the kid has it all. . . . The biggest loss on defense will be up front. [Tackle] Bary Holleyman is O.K., but he isn't a dominator. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 51st of 117

Aug. 25 NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 1 at Air Force
8 NORTH TEXAS
15 TULSA
29 KANSAS STATE

Oct. 6 vs. Texas*
13 at Kansas
20 BAYLOR
27 at Nebraska

Nov. 10 TEXAS A&M
17 at Texas Tech
24 OKLAHOMA STATE

*At Dallas

JOHN BIEVER

Calmus is, by choice, no Boz, except that he's a big, blond, bruising linebacker who always gets to the ball.

FLORIDA STATE

The Seminoles lack big-name players and experience but haven't lost their swagger

➤ AFTER THREE straight trips to the national championship game and 14 consecutive top 5 finishes, what does Florida State have to fear? So what if the Seminoles lost 15 starters, including four All-Americans? Who cares if this squad doesn't have any Warricks or Weinkes? The holdovers insist there will be no drop-off. "People can doubt us all they want, but we have as much talent as ever," says senior All-America tackle Brett Williams. "The only difference between this year and the past few seasons is that we have less experience, but we still expect to win the ACC and play for the national title."

So does coach Bobby Bowden, although he acknowledges that this team is far from ready-made. "The last couple of years the puzzle was pretty much complete before the season started," says Bowden, 71, who with 315 major-college wins trails only Joe Paterno (322), Bear Bryant (323) and

Pop Warner (319). "Coming into this season we don't have but three or four pieces [in place]. I know the other pieces are out there. We just have to find them and put them in the right places."

The most important piece is the replacement for Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Chris Weinke. The battle for the job between redshirt freshman Chris Rix and converted junior receiver Anquan Boldin (664 receiving yards, six touchdowns in 2000) was so close in spring practice that Bowden says he may play both. Rix has the stronger arm; Boldin is the bigger threat to scramble. Both have 4.4 speed, which will allow Bowden to mix in the option with his usual pro set. A trio of inexperienced backs—senior Davy Ford, sophomore Greg Jones and junior Nick Maddox—shares the bulk of the running load.

On defense Florida State packs plenty

of firepower in sophomore tackle Darnell Dockett, senior free safety Chris Hope and senior linebacker Bradley Jennings. The 6' 4", 260-pound Dockett, the national freshman of the year after leading the team in tackles for loss (18), has the strength (a 405-pound bench press) to bull-rush inside and the speed (4.6) to disrupt plays in the backfield.

"There's a whole lot of talent here that people don't know about yet," says Hope. "Guys are hungry and waiting to show we're not going to be down." —B.J.S.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-2 (8-0, 1st in ACC)

Final ranking: No. 5 AP, No. 4 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

549

Average yards of total offense by Florida State in 2000, best in the nation.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Seminoles

“Defensive tackles **Darnell Dockett** and **Jeff Womble** are animals. Last year they were unbelievable coming off the ball. **Bradley Jennings** is tough, but I thought their linebackers would be faster. Safety **Chris Hope** put some good hits on

SCHEDULE

Strength: 14th of 117

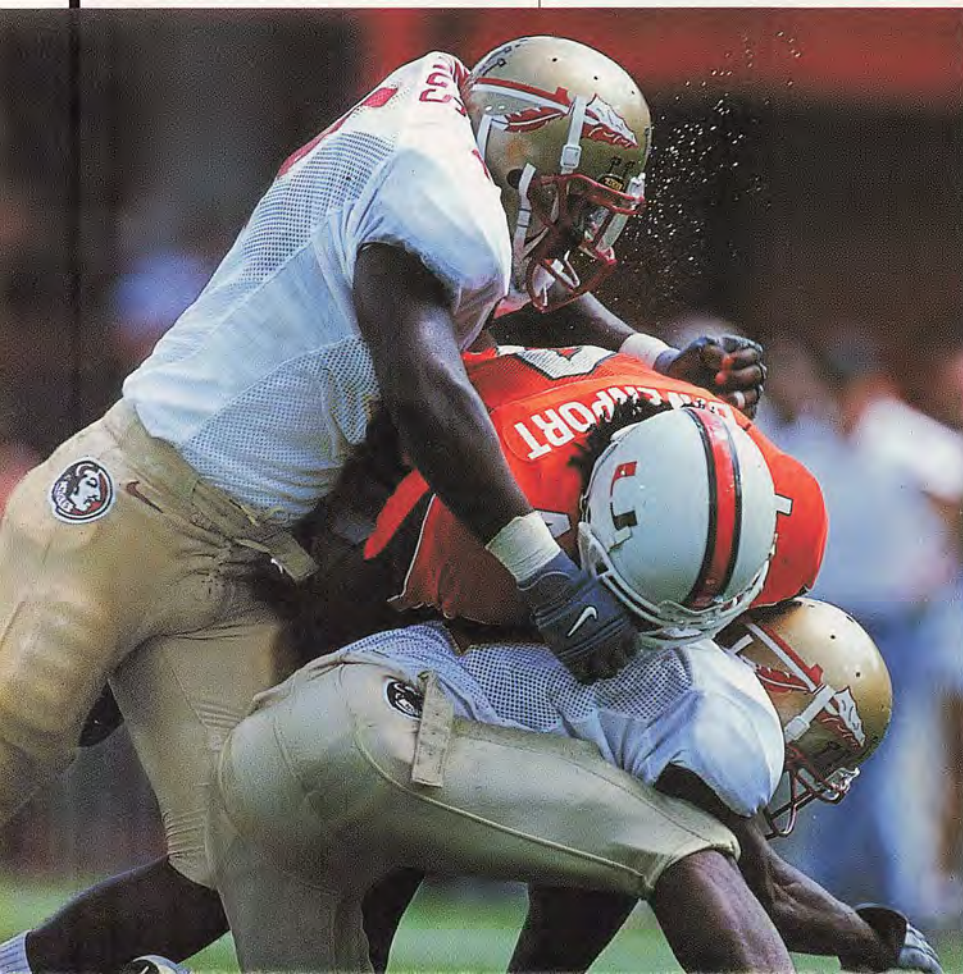
Sept. 1 at Duke
8 ALA.-BIRMINGHAM
15 GEORGIA TECH
22 at North Carolina
29 WAKE FOREST

Oct. 13 MIAMI
20 at Virginia
27 MARYLAND

Nov. 3 at Clemson
10 N.C. STATE
17 at Florida

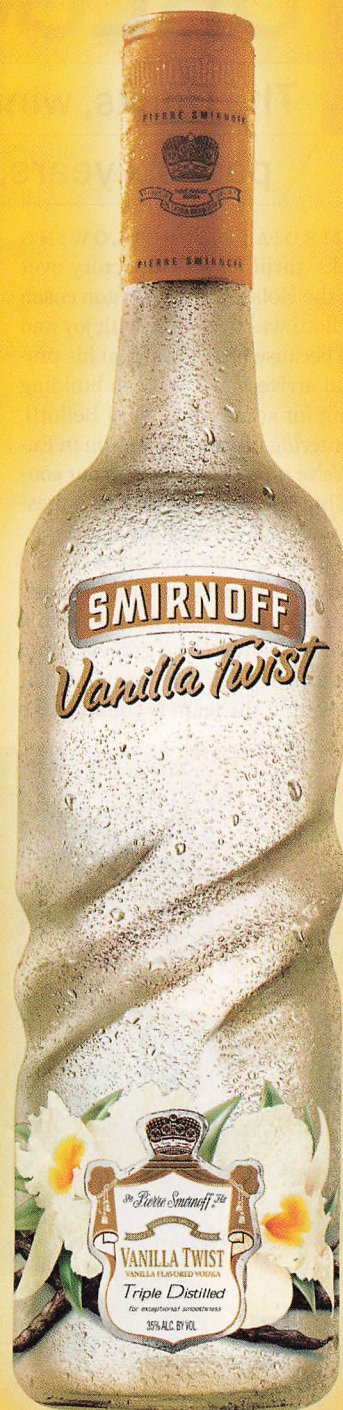
our guys. . . . I don't know anything about **Chris Rix** as a quarterback. They don't, either. They want to establish the run. That's why they lost those two national title games: They got into a throwing match instead of controlling the line of scrimmage.”

Jennings (far left) is an established force on a defense packed with young and hungry talent.





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7 OREGON

The Ducks, winningest Pac-10 team the past six years, will again fly in V formation

» IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the Ducks' thrilling 35-30 victory over Texas in the Holiday Bowl, Oregon coach Mike Bellotti was overcome with joy and emotion because he realized that his program had arrived. "We've been building this thing for some time," says Bellotti, who is entering his seventh season in Eugene. "We've proven ourselves in our conference, but beating Texas sends a message that we can play with anyone."

Since Bellotti took over in 1995, the Ducks have more victories (49) than any other Pac-10 school and have shown a knack for surviving close games, going 18-7 in those decided by a touchdown or less. Given that the team is coming off a

school-record 10-2 finish last fall, expectations are naturally at an alltime high—and for good reason. Nine starters are back from an offense that averaged 409.8 yards and 29.3 points per game.

It all starts with the crafty and agile senior quarterback Joey Harrington, who threw for 2,967 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2000, and ran for seven more scores. Two months ago he was flown cross-country to get a good look at himself, in the form of a 100-foot billboard bearing his likeness and promoting his candidacy for the Heisman Trophy. (Oregon boosters paid \$250,000 for the advertisement, which is mounted on a building across from Madison Square Garden in New York City.) When Harrington saw the billboard he stopped dead in his tracks and stared upward, mouth agape.

"It was overwhelming," he says. "To look at myself on a billboard that size, sitting in New York City, blows my mind. It's something special, but you have to keep it in perspective. If we had gone 7-5 last year, none of this would be happening. If we don't win this year, it will all go away. All the attention I get is because of the success of my team, and I have to remember that."

On defense the Ducks have only one player, senior tackle Zack Freiter, returning among the front seven, so they will need senior safeties Keith Lewis and Rasuli Webster to help stop the run. "We basically play a nine-man front and

that will present many problems for other teams, because our cornerbacks [seniors Rashad Buman and Steve Smith] can cover most wide receivers one-on-one," says Bellotti.

If the defense can withstand some early tests against Wisconsin and USC, Oregon may be undefeated heading into its final two games, against UCLA and Oregon State. "I really like this team," says Bellotti. "It has a togetherness and chemistry that are awesome. This group is confident it can play with anyone." —B.J.S.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 10-2 (7-1, TI in Pac-10)

Final ranking: No. 7 AP, No. 9 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

15

Consecutive home wins for the Ducks, at Autzen Stadium, nine short of the Pac-10 record.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Ducks

"I love their quarterback, **Joey Harrington**. He's not only a big talent but also has tremendous heart. . . . The coaches are confident in their players, which gives the kids confidence in themselves, and it shows. . . . Defensive coordinator **Nick Aliotti** does a nice job. He's constantly switching coverages, finding ways to create numbers advantages. . . . Oregon State might have greater team speed, but the Oregon kids are tenacious. Everyone hustles and runs to the ball. . . . Just a very scary team."

SCHEDULE

Strength: 25th of 117

Sept. 1	WISCONSIN
8	UTAH
22	USC
29	at Utah State
Oct. 6	at Arizona
13	at California
20	STANFORD
27	at Washington St.
Nov. 3	ARIZONA STATE
10	at UCLA
Dec. 1	OREGON STATE

Sure-handed Samie Parker is one of the wideouts who will give Harrington's Heisman hopes a boost.



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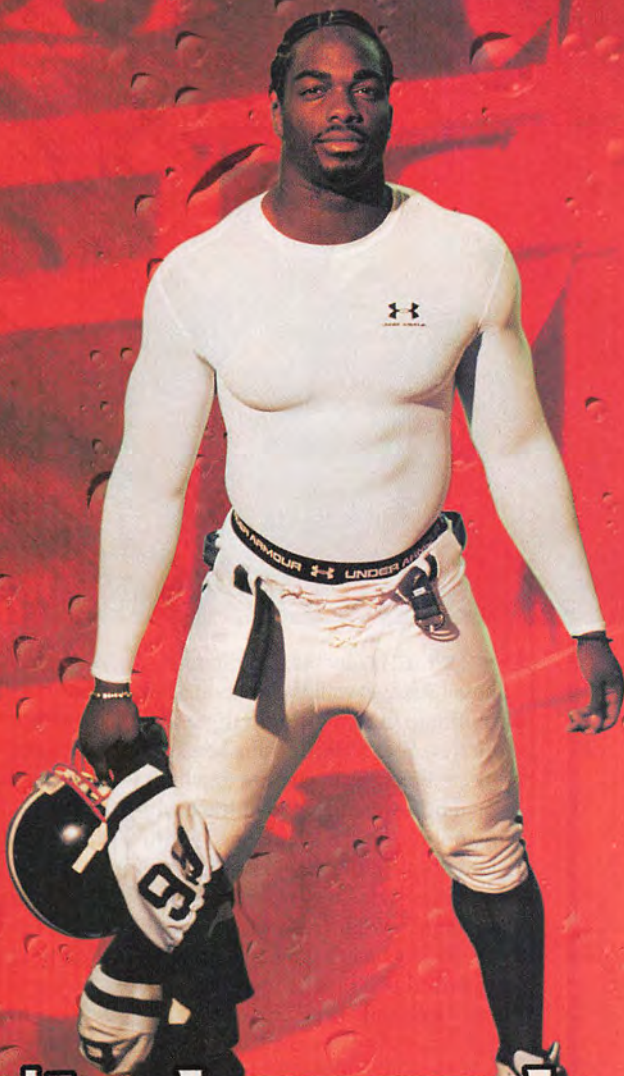


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NEBRASKA

Behind run-pass threat Eric Crouch, the
Huskers eye the title run they blew last year



DAMIAN STROHMEYER

» THEY HAD lost to Oklahoma and to Kansas State, so with their season about to culminate in San Antonio three days before New Year's, the Cornhuskers, who had been a preseason favorite to win the national title, were ready to unleash a little frustration. Nebraska pounded Northwestern 66-17 in the Alamo Bowl, but afterward there was little celebration in the locker room. "We all knew that we should have been playing in a different game," senior quarterback Eric Crouch says now. "Immediately talk turned to next year."

Eight months later the Huskers are ready to forget the Alamo and that underachieving 10-2 season. Having rallied one another through what the seniors describe as an especially intense winter of indoor running drills and a summer vacation filled with 7 a.m. weight-room sessions, the Nebraska players are prepared for a schedule that summons Notre Dame, Ok-

To achieve his goal of leading the nation in rushing, Crouch must hand off less and run more.

lahoma and Kansas State to Lincoln. "This team lost some exceptional athletes, but the young players that are starting have the ability to be tremendous," says coach Frank Solich. "Of course, we expect Eric to have a great senior season."

Though Crouch talks about wanting to double last year's 1,101 passing yards, what he really wants to do is lead the nation in rushing. The Cornhuskers did that as a team last year (349.9 yards per game, including 88.3 yards per outing by Crouch), but with the departure of center Dominic Raiola and guard Russ Hochstein, both All-Americans, duplicating that effort could be daunting.

Whenever Solich decides to let his nimble-footed quarterback air it out, Crouch will have a reliable target in tight

end Tracey Wistrom, who led the team with five touchdown catches last year. In preparation for his senior season Wistrom has been consulting by phone with older brother Grant, a St. Louis Rams defensive end who helped Nebraska win three national titles in the mid-'90s. "This season reminds Grant of 1995, when the team went into the fall with lots of questions and no answers," says Tracey. "One by one guys stepped up, and by the end of the year they were national champs."

—Kelley King

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 10-2 (6-2, 2nd in Big 12 North)

Final ranking: No. 8 AP, No. 7 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

25

Sacks by the Cornhuskers in 2000, the lowest total since the school started keeping the stat in 1981.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Cornhuskers

“They're going to struggle defensively. The safeties can't cover, and last year the secondary had trouble matching up with Number 2 receivers. If you leave your

corners out on an island, you better be pretty good up front. Nebraska doesn't get inside pressure from the line. . . . Cornerback Keyuo Craver is a good player but not a burner. . . . Among the new I-backs, I don't see the equivalent of a Correll Buckhalter or a Dan Alexander [the top two I-backs last season].”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 53rd of 117

Aug. 25 TCU

Sept. 1 TROY STATE
8 NOTRE DAME
15 RICE
29 at Missouri

Oct. 6 IOWA STATE
13 at Baylor
20 TEXAS TECH
27 OKLAHOMA

Nov. 3 at Kansas
10 KANSAS STATE
23 at Colorado



-Michael Johnson, 32
Sprinter

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"When I get up in the morning,
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TENNESSEE

The Vols have vowed to return to the elite,
and a large defensive tackle shall lead them

» VERY FEW things that get in the way of 6' 7", 290-pound John Henderson—offensive linemen, running backs, cold drinks—stand a chance. Last season, as the defensive tackle was leaving the Vols' locker room after halftime of a game at Memphis, he found a large cooler, filled with Gatorade and ice, blocking his way. He picked it up, flung it across the room and charged out the door, beating even coach Phillip Fulmer onto the field, a no-no. "I wasn't too pleased with how we were playing," says Henderson, whose team was trailing 10-3. "I just wanted to send the message to the team that I will lead you to a victory. I wanted them to follow me."

The Vols won 19-17, and Henderson aspires to have a similar impact this year. If Tennessee is to return to college football's elite, it will do so behind Henderson, the Outland Trophy winner who likely would

have been a top 15 pick in April's NFL draft. In Peytonesque fashion Henderson, who sat out the '98 title season under Prop 48, opted for one more year of college life and one last shot at a national championship.

Tennessee has 17 returning starters, including quarterback Casey Clausen, a sophomore who has shown veteran poise. After the Vols lost three of their first five games last year under Joey Mathews and A.J. Suggs, Fulmer named Clausen the starter; he reeled off six straight victories. He also passed for 1,473 yards to break Peyton Manning's Vols freshman record.

Senior Travis Stephens inherits the starting tailback position from Travis Henry, but he carries a question mark: Can a 5' 9", 190-pounder be a 30-carries-a-game back? He may not get the chance to answer. The Vols signed two freshmen, Jabari Davis and Cedric Houston, who were among the

nation's top 10 running back recruits. "Who's going to step up at tailback is a fair question," Fulmer says. "Travis is a quality back, but there is an opportunity for a couple of young guys to contribute."

On the other side of the ball, the secondary retains all four starters—not necessarily a good thing considering the Vols' pitiful rank (69th) against the pass. Still, with athletic linebackers and Henderson anchoring the front, the defense is capable of big things. At the very least their leader is sure to wreak havoc along the way.—G.M.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (5-3, T2 in SEC East)

Final ranking: No. 25 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

5

Opponents held below 50 yards rushing by the Volunteers in 2000, their most in 50 years.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Volunteers

“You look at Casey Clausen and you think, We're going to have a good day against this guy. You don't see any zip on the ball. It wobbles. It floats. Well, he won six in a row. I wish we had one like him. . . . The receivers need to pick it up. They

weren't as productive last season. . . . John Henderson is a dominating player. He gets great leverage, and he's learned to play lower. . . . [Defensive end] Will Overstreet's a throwback. He's not as talented as some, but he's relentless.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 9th of 117

Sept. 1 SYRACUSE

8 at Arkansas

15 at Florida

29 LSU

Oct. 6 GEORGIA

20 at Alabama

27 SOUTH CAROLINA

Nov. 3 at Notre Dame

10 MEMPHIS

17 at Kentucky

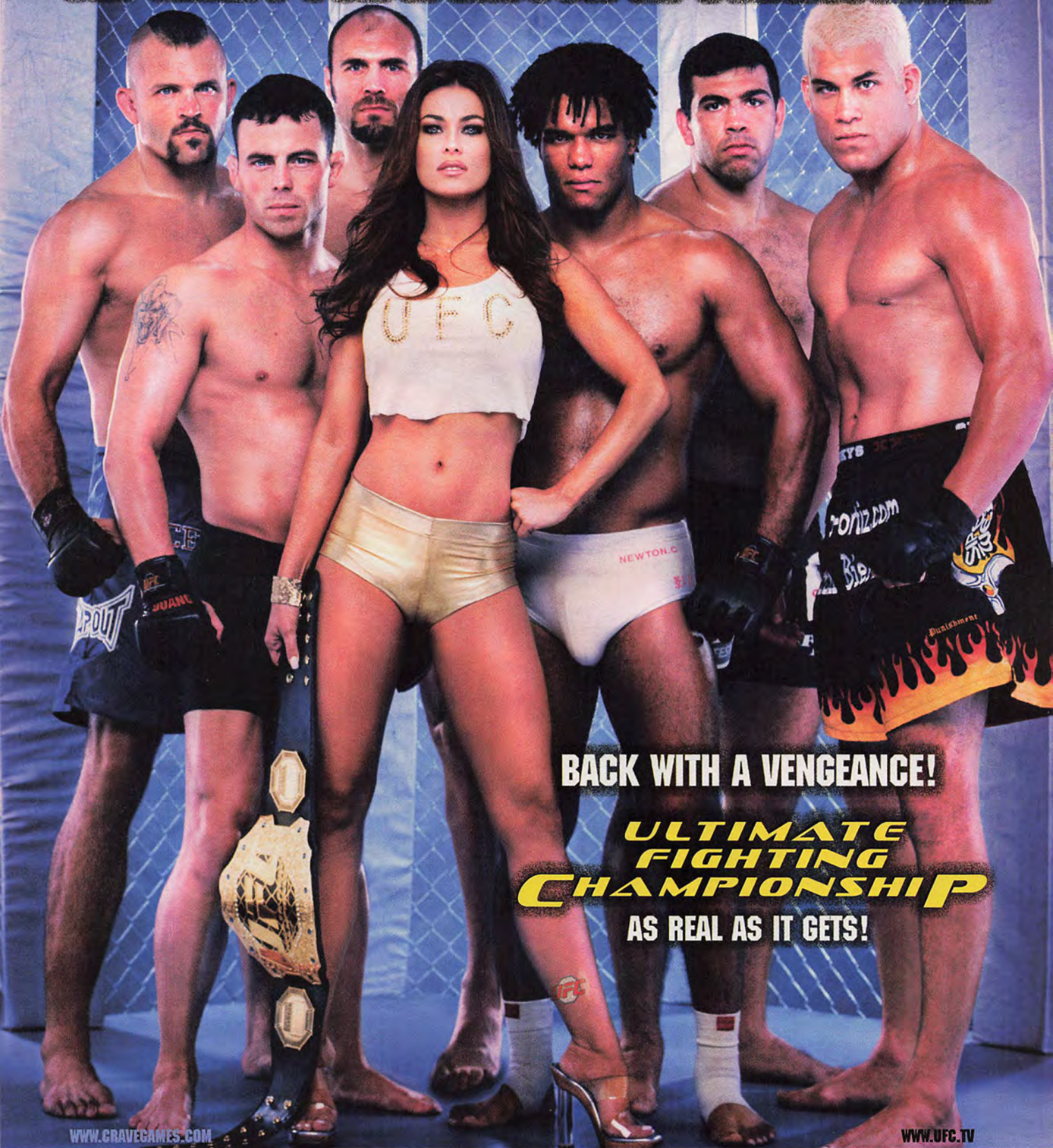
24 VANDERBILT

Stephens will try to stay a step ahead of opposing defenders, as well as the two freshmen on his heels.



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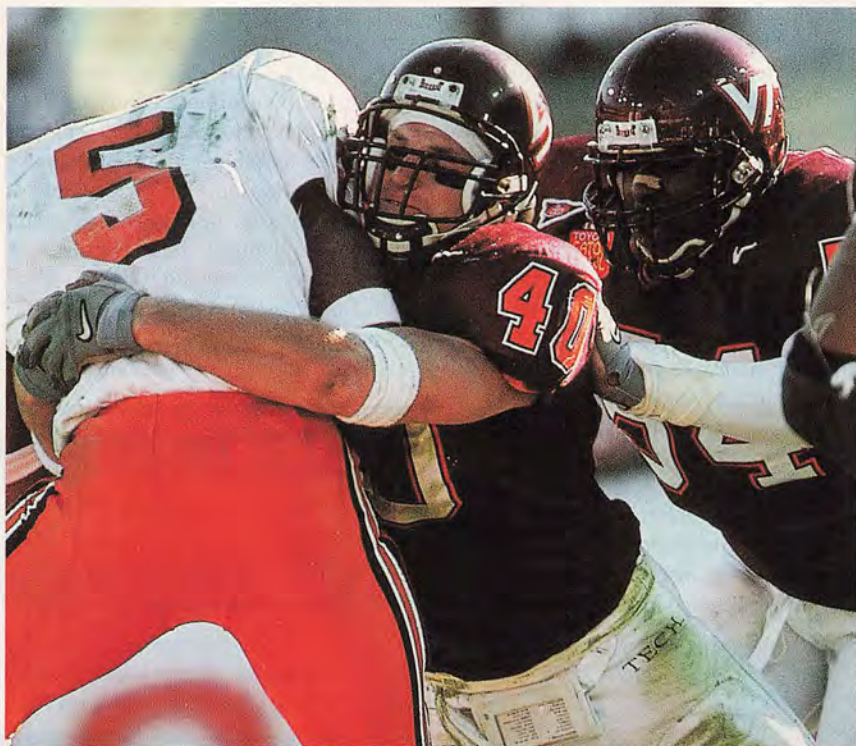


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VIRGINIA TECH

While the Hokies reload at quarterback, the veteran defense will take care of business



BILL FRANKS

>> THE TENSION in the conference room at Philadelphia's Cardinal O'Hara High last January was palpable after *Parade* All-America running back Kevin Jones arrived to announce his college choice. "Right now, my decision is . . . not Penn State," said Jones, tossing a Nittany Lions jersey on the table in front of him. "My decision is Virginia Tech." By signing Jones, the nation's top-rated player according to *SuperPrep*, and Bryan Randall, a blue-chip quarterback out of Bruton High in Williamsburg, Va., the Hokies served notice that they can recruit with the top dogs.

Now they have to show that they can hang with the elite programs. After leading Virginia Tech to back-to-back 11-1 seasons, quarterback Michael Vick left following his sophomore season to become the first player selected in April's NFL draft. His departure created a two-man battle for the job in spring practice.

Ben Taylor (40) and Co. were the Beasts of the East last fall, and nine of those defensive starters return.

The winner appears to be junior Grant Noel, whose leadership skills give him an edge over redshirt freshman Jason Davis, but Randall, who both rushed and passed for more than 1,000 yards in each of his last two high school seasons, will get a look this month. "The question with quarterbacks, and Vick was no exception, is always, How will they perform when it counts?" says coach Frank Beamer.

The same uncertainty applies to the line, which has only one starter returning. "I know the coaches will bring the line together," says junior running back Lee Suggs. "They've done it before." Last season Suggs ran behind a group of hosses that helped spring him for a Big East-leading 1,207 yards rushing and a national-best 28 touchdowns.

The anchor of this team, however, is a defense that has nine starters back and is good enough to carry the Hokies into the regular-season finale against Miami undefeated. Wideout André Davis, for one, is thrilled by the prospect. "When I came here, I thought we'd get a few games on national TV," he says. "Now we're a program that's up there with Florida State, Florida and Nebraska. People think we're going to be weaker without Michael Vick. Any team that thinks that has another think coming."

—John O'Keefe

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-1 (6-1, 2nd in Big East)

Final ranking: No. 6 AP, No. 6 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

46

Rushing touchdowns by the Hokies last season, ranking them first in the nation.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Hokies

“They'll have a drop-off [in experience], but it may not hurt them. The easy schedule will allow the quarterbacks to develop. However, they lost four of five starting offensive linemen, and that's what I wonder about. . . . Freshman

SCHEDULE

Strength: 58th of 117

Sept. 1 CONNECTICUT
8 WESTERN MICHIGAN
22 at Rutgers
29 CENTRAL FLORIDA

Oct. 6 at West Virginia
13 BOSTON COLLEGE
27 SYRACUSE

Nov. 3 at Pittsburgh
10 at Temple
17 at Virginia

Dec. 1 MIAMI

running back **Kevin Jones** can help them now. He ripped up the Big 33 [high school all-star] game. . . . They talk about linebacker **Ben Taylor** on defense, but the two inside guys, **Chad Beasley** and **David Pugh**, make it hard for us to run against them.”

GEORGIA TECH

Pass master George Godsey could be the Goose that lays the Jackets' golden egg

» SENIOR QUARTERBACK George (Goose) Godsey got his nickname in the eighth grade, when one of his youth league teammates misread the *D* on the back of his jersey as an *O* and pronounced his last name as Goosey. "They eventually cut the *Y*," Godsey explains, "because I think they felt Goosey sounded a little too light."

Taking a gander at the 6' 2", 205-pound Godsey lumbering downfield, few would accuse him of being light—especially on his feet. Even Godsey admits that his speed is more Lorne Greene than Maurice Greene. "I scored a touchdown last year on a 33-yard run against Georgia," he says. "The only other time I had run that far was during conditioning in the summer. They usually blow the whistle in practice before I get to 30 yards."

Luckily, passing is where Godsey makes his mark. After serving as Joe Hamiton's

little-used caddie for two years, Godsey emerged last season to become one of the nation's leading quarterbacks (No. 6 in passing efficiency after throwing for 2,906 yards and 23 touchdowns). In Godsey the Yellow Jackets trusted, and Tech coach George O'Leary was rewarded with a 9-2 season and a ranking among the top 20 in passing, scoring and total offense. The last game of Godsey's dream season, however, ended in a nightmare: He tore the ACL in his left knee while trying to avoid a tackler in a Peach Bowl loss to LSU. He missed spring practice but began taking snaps again in mid-June and is confident he'll be 100% for the Kickoff Classic against Syracuse on Aug. 26.

The postseason fortunes of the Yellow Jackets may be determined early, with September dates against Florida State and Clemson. The game in Tallahassee figures

to be as difficult as the deterministic optimization seminar Godsey took this summer as part of his graduate studies in industrial engineering. Georgia Tech has lost nine straight to the Seminoles, though the Goose feels loose about his squad's chances this season. "We respect them as highly as you can," he says, "but this team will be as well prepared for Florida State as any team I've been on."

If Godsey engineers a fairy-tale victory over the Seminoles, he'll be one golden Goose indeed. —Richard Deitsch

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-3 (6-2, T2 in ACC)

Final ranking: No. 17 AP, No. 19 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

+17

Turnover differential per game last season, second best in the nation, as Tech forced 43 miscues.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Yellow Jackets

“ George Godsey turned out to be a very shrewd player. His strengths are his leadership and his ability to get the team in the right call. He also throws the ball well.

We had a mix-up in our coverage, and he found it and made us pay for it by throwing for a touchdown. . . . I don't know a lot about [new coordinator] Bill O'Brien, but the offense probably won't change much. . . . Wide receiver Kelly Campbell is a guy you don't want to leave on an island. He can break plays on you. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 55th of 117

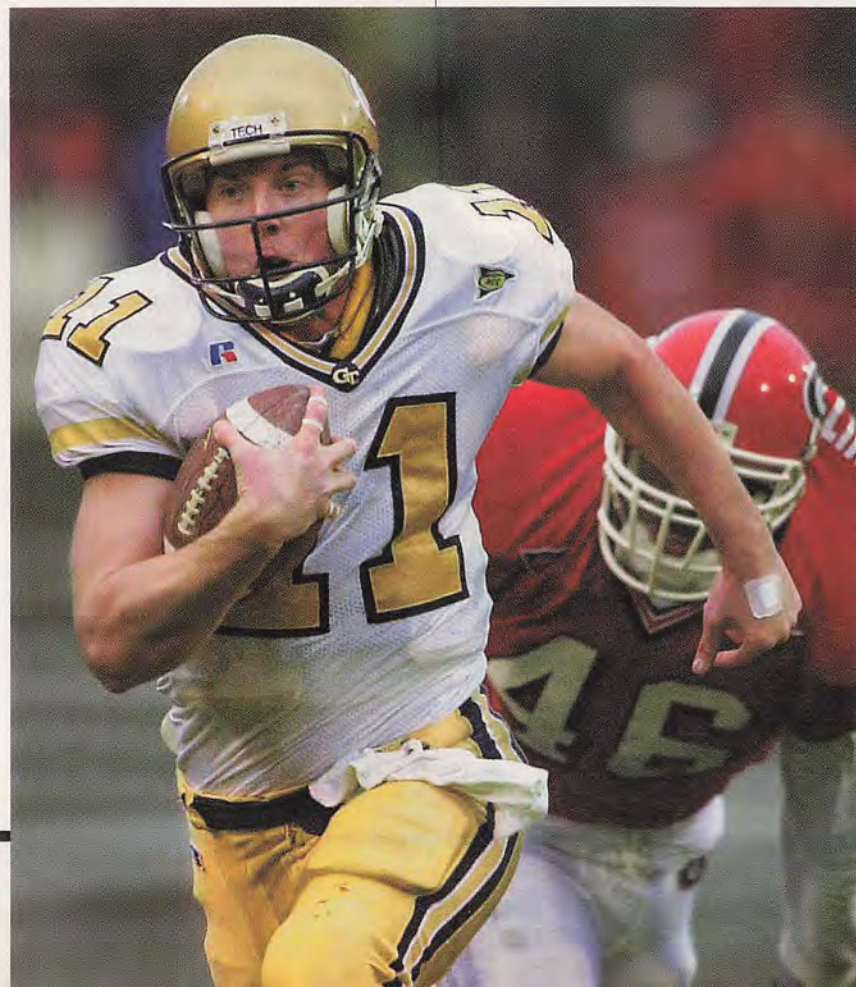
Aug. 26 vs. Syracuse*

Sept. 1 THE CITADEL
8 at Navy
15 at Florida State
29 CLEMSON

Oct. 6 at Duke
11 MARYLAND
20 N.C. STATE

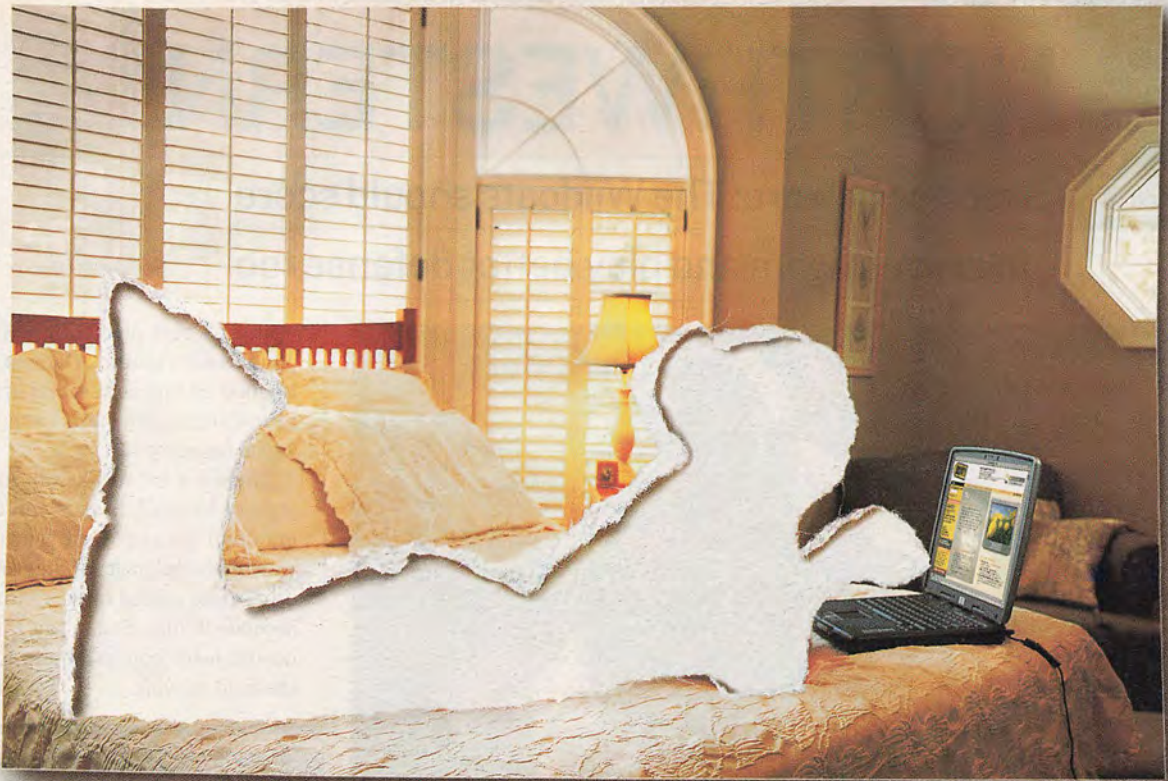
Nov. 1 NORTH CAROLINA
10 at Virginia
17 at Wake Forest
24 GEORGIA

*At East Rutherford, N.J.



JOHN BAZZON/AP

It's a rare sight to see Godsey take off and run; his efficient arm is the weapon of choice.



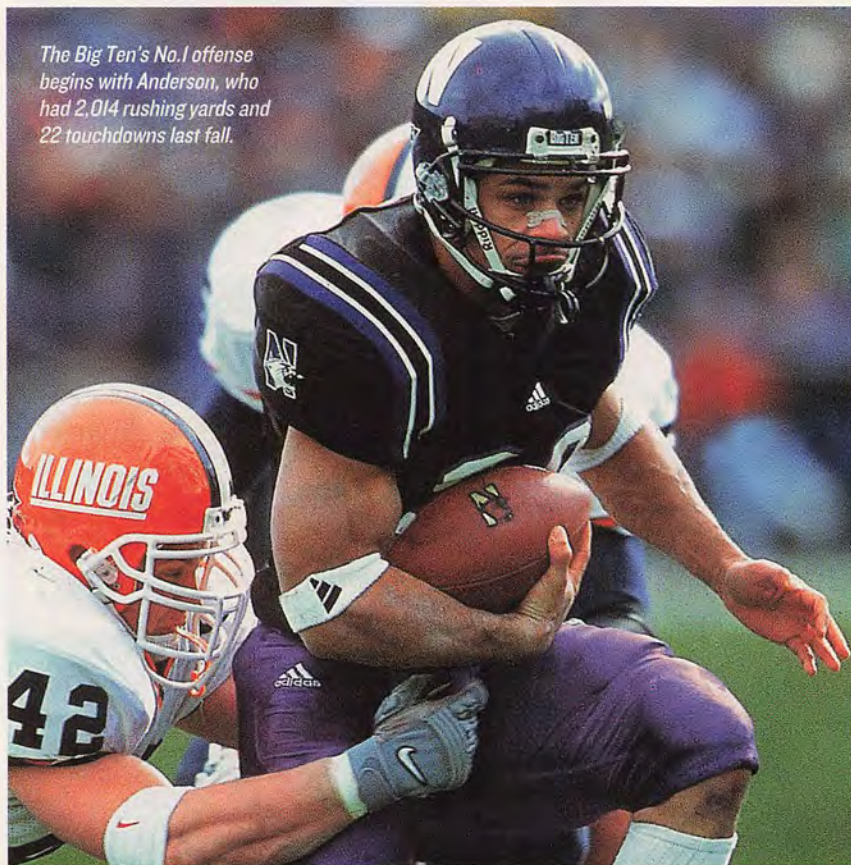
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NORTHWESTERN

Skeptics beware: The Wildcats should score
in droves again and play better defense too

The Big Ten's No. 1 offense begins with Anderson, who had 2,014 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns last fall.



JONATHAN DANIEL

year. The best of the lot is 5' 11", 204-pound senior tailback Damien Anderson. In 2000 he finished second in the nation in rushing (2,014 yards) and set or tied 23 school records.

There's a lot to like about Walker's style of football. In particular, his players don't give up. Last year they twice won on the last snap of the game and another time pulled out a victory with 20 seconds to play. Sad to say, the Wildcats have to learn how to handle adversity off the field as well.

—Ivan Maisel

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (6-2, TI in Big Ten)

Final ranking: Not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

103

Offensive plays run by the Wildcats in last year's 61-23 win over Illinois, a season high in I-A.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Wildcats

“Offensively they have a good concept, and when they run out of the spread, it creates problems for the defense. Their trap game is really tough, and it's all determined by what the coaches see from the press box. They use a variety of tempos

and go no-huddle a lot. . . . Quarterback **Zak Kustok** runs the offense well, and running back **Damien Anderson** is tremendous in the open field. . . .

Linebackers **Billy Silva** and **Napoleon Harris** aren't big, but they're exceptional players.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 50th of 117

Sept. 7 at UNLV
15 NAVY
22 at Duke
29 MICHIGAN STATE

Oct. 6 at Ohio State
13 MINNESOTA
20 PENN STATE
27 at Purdue

Nov. 3 at Indiana
10 IOWA
22 at Illinois

» TO BE A Northwestern football player is to perform under a shadow of doubt. The Wildcats have won or shared the Big Ten title three times in the last six seasons—as many as Michigan has and more than Ohio State (two), Wisconsin (two) and Penn State (none) have in that time—but skeptics of the program remain. Dealing with that became a lot less important last Friday, however, when senior strong safety Rashidi Wheeler suffered a severe asthma attack on the practice field, collapsed and died. “Rashidi was full of life and was an unbelievably gifted athlete,” said new secondary coach Pat Fitzgerald. “He had the size and speed to play on Sunday.”

Wheeler was one of the few bright spots on a defense that needs to improve

quickly and dramatically, because last year Northwestern needed every bit of its offensive firepower to win games by scores of 54-51, 47-44, 41-35 and 52-33. There is no such concern on offense. Coach Randy Walker estimates that 10 schools sent staff members to Evanston during the off-season to learn his team's spread offense.

Last fall the Wildcats led the conference in total offense (475.6 yards per game) and scoring (38.6 points a game), thanks mainly to a scheme that capitalized on their multitude of receivers and on quarterback Zak Kustok's ability to recognize defenses, thus neutralizing teams that had superior speed. With 10 offensive starters returning, Northwestern should be even more efficient this

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LSU

The resurgent Tigers are loaded at the skill positions and have big expectations to fulfill

» MIDDLE LINEBACKER Treverance Faulk knew the fans cared, but he didn't know how much until the purple-and-gold-clad masses stormed the Tiger Stadium field last season after LSU's stirring wins over Tennessee and Alabama. "There were even old men running around," Faulk says. "They were hugging me, crying. It was unbelievable."

Not entirely. On Feb. 7 some of these same fans showed up, about 4,000 strong, at the Sheraton Atrium in Baton Rouge and stayed for 10 hours to cheer as the names of LSU's latest recruiting class were flashed across a big-screen television. With the Tigers coming off a surprising 8-4 season and buoyed by the return of 17 starters—not to mention a recruiting class ranked among the top three in the nation by most gurus—second-year coach Nick Saban needs to deal with runaway expectations.

"The challenge facing a lot of our guys,

who didn't experience success until last year, is handling that success," Saban says. "Some horses run better from behind. We have to learn how to run from ahead."

Saban will be aided in that task by the 6' 3", 225-pound Faulk, a junior who led LSU with 113 tackles last year and enters his second season as one of the team's captains. Faulk, whose cousin Kevin was an All-America for the Tigers in 1996 and plays running back for the New England Patriots, not only takes his teammates to task on the field but also chides those who miss a class or study hall. He leads a defense that has 10 starters back, including fellow junior linebacker Bradie James, who had 110 tackles and five sacks in 2000.

The offense is loaded at the skill positions. Senior quarterback Rohan Davey, who came off the bench to win offensive MVP honors in a 28-14 Peach Bowl win over Georgia Tech, has the starting job to himself with the early departure of Josh

Booty to the NFL. Davey has the luxury of throwing to experienced receivers and handing off to a backfield topped by sophomore LaBrandon Toefield (682 yards).

The Tigers are no powerhouse—they outscored their SEC foes combined by a point last season (196-195)—but the fans' optimism over the program's direction isn't unfounded. Faulk and his mates hope to reward that passion. "They're nuts, but we love them," Faulk says. "I'd love to have a breakthrough season to give them a lot more to cheer for." —Pete McEntegart

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (5-3, 2nd SEC West)

Final ranking: No. 22 AP

TELLING NUMBER

22.4

Difference in points per game scored at home (34.7) and away (12.3) by LSU in 2000.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Tigers

“ The big question is Rohan Davey as a starting quarterback. He pitched well in relief last year, coming off the bench to bring his team back in the second half against Georgia Tech. He has a cannon for an arm, but he has been

overweight and prone to injuries. He needs to get them out of bad plays at the line. . . . [Linebacker]

Treverance Faulk seems smart and has size and speed. LSU takes advantage of his athleticism and uses him well in man-to-man coverage. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 41st of 117

Sept. 1 TULANE

8 UTAH STATE

15 AUBURN

29 at Tennessee

Oct. 6 FLORIDA

13 at Kentucky

20 at Mississippi State

27 MISSISSIPPI

Nov. 3 at Alabama

10 MIDDLE TENNESSEE

24 ARKANSAS



With James (11), Faulk and end Kenderick Allen (54) stuffing opponents, LSU usually wins the close ones.



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MICHIGAN

Damn Yankees made the Wolverines' uphill struggle on offense an even steeper test

➤ EXPECTING LITTLE more than another stomach-churning spring practice, junior wideout Ronald Bellamy strolled into the Michigan locker room on March 24 to find starting quarterback Drew Henson cleaning out his locker. The rumors were true: Henson, who had led Michigan to a share of the Big Ten championship in 2000, was bolting to the New York Yankees' organization for \$17 million and the opportunity to become a big-league third baseman. Oh, man, thought Bellamy, now what are we going to do?

Henson's adieu was the final episode in a soap opera of an off-season for the Wolverines. In January wideout David Terrell had announced that he was forgoing his senior season to enter the NFL draft, joining Michigan's alltime rushing leader, Anthony Thomas, and four offensive linemen who had used up their eligibility.

The decimated offense now falls heir to

sophomore quarterback John Navarre, who started the first four games of last season while Henson was sidelined with a broken right foot. Against Bowling Green and Rice the 6' 6", 242-pound Navarre showed great potential, throwing seven touchdown passes and no interceptions. Savvier defenses, however, flustered him. A week after completing only eight of 28 passes in a 23-20 loss to UCLA, he was operating with a 14-7 second-quarter deficit against Illinois when Henson replaced him. Henson jump-started a 35-31 victory, and Navarre got limited playing time the rest of the year. "That was just a taste," says Navarre of his brief stay in the limelight. "This [season] is the whole meal."

He'll have slim pickings without Terrell and Thomas. In their absence, Michigan will turn to sophomore tailback Chris Perry, who rushed for 417 yards on 77 carries last year, and the receiving tandem of Bellamy

and senior Marquise Walker. "I expect," says coach Lloyd Carr, "that the offense will get better as the season goes along."

Navarre, who heartened Bellamy and others with a near-flawless practice on the Saturday that Henson made his exit, has been logging extra hours with his receivers to help expedite that process. "Coming out of high school [in Cudahy, Wis., where he was the state's top-ranked quarterback in 1998], I expected to play right away," says Navarre. "Now it's time, and I plan to be ready." —K.K.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-3 (6-2, T1 in Big Ten)

Final ranking: No. 11 AP, No. 10 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

72.4

Percentage of offense produced last year by departed Drew Henson and Anthony Thomas.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Wolverines

“ Their secondary might be as talented as any in the country, and **Todd Howard** is as good a hitter as any cornerback. . . . Two of their linebackers, **Eric Brackins** and **Larry Foote**, are physical and fast, and now they're experienced

seniors. . . . The defensive line is young, but I know the coaches are making it a priority to get it ready. . . . Michigan will miss wideout David Terrell, but not as much as they're going to miss some of the bigger guys from last year's huge offensive line. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 24th of 117

Sept. 1 MIAMI (OHIO)
8 at Washington
15 WESTERN MICHIGAN
22 ILLINOIS

Oct. 6 at Penn State
13 PURDUE
27 at Iowa

Nov. 3 at Michigan State
10 MINNESOTA
17 at Wisconsin
24 OHIO STATE

By season's end, more than one Michigan opponent may wish the Wolverines had never said Navarre.



JOHN W. McDONOUGH



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KANSAS STATE

Can the Wildcats maintain their recent high rate of success? The pressure is on

➤ AS EXPECTED, the question of who will play quarterback this fall created a lot of buzz along the buffet line at the Catbackers Club dinner last month in Kansas City, Kans. Nevertheless, says senior outside linebacker Ben Leber, who attended the function, for every booster curious about who will replace passer Jonathan Beasley—not to mention who will take over for the 26 other seniors who departed—two old-timers wanted Leber to know just how good the 2001 Wildcats have it. “I recently real-

ized how bad Kansas State was before Coach Snyder came along,” says Leber. “Nowadays the pressure comes from the fact that we did so well the year before.”

Since arriving in 1989, Bill Snyder has built a program that had had only one winning record in the 11 previous years into a Big 12 powerhouse that has won nine or more games eight years in a row. The Wildcats capped last season with a flogging of Tennessee in the Cotton Bowl. To top last year’s performance they will have to win road games at Oklahoma (the Sooners accounted for two of Kansas State’s losses last year) and Nebraska. Before the season starts, however, the Wildcats have to work out what Leber euphemistically calls “some personnel issues.”

They have to replace 1,000-yard receiver Quincy Morgan plus five other players who were drafted by the NFL.

The secondary has only one returning starter, and the defensive line has none. Then there’s that quarterback issue.

Sophomore Eli Roberson enters the fall atop the depth chart but will likely share time with Ricks (Idaho) Junior College transfer Marc Dunn. Although “similar talentwise,” says Snyder, their opposing styles—Roberson is trained in the option while Dunn likes to put the ball in the air—could create confusion early as the offense adjusts to each player. “There is an advantage to that,” says senior wideout Aaron Lockett. “At third-and-short, everyone knew we were running the option. This year we won’t be so predictable.”

The Wildcats will have many new faces in the lineup, but they don’t see this as a building year. “We have the makings of a quality football team,” says Snyder. “I don’t think that anyone will be surprised to see us do well.” —K.K.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-3 (6-2, 1st Big 12 North)

Final ranking: No. 9 AP, No. 8 coaches’ poll

TELLING NUMBER

4

Consecutive 11-win seasons by K-State, a feat previously achieved only by Florida State and Nebraska.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team’s coach sizes up the Wildcats

“A Bill Snyder-coached team is one of the most difficult to prepare for: He’s constantly changing things and trying to keep you off guard. . . . The Wildcats are very aggressive on defense and try to force mistakes. They lost a little up front, but this

program has gotten to the point where there shouldn’t be much drop-off. . . . Aaron Lockett is a heck of a receiver. But will they be able to get him the ball? . . . Quarterback Eli Roberson is a good athlete, although he hasn’t shown he can get the job done under pressure.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 38th of 117

Sept. 8	at USC
15	LOUISIANA TECH
22	NEW MEXICO STATE
29	at Oklahoma
Oct. 6	COLORADO
13	at Texas Tech
20	TEXAS A&M
27	KANSAS
Nov. 3	at Iowa State
10	at Nebraska
17	MISSOURI

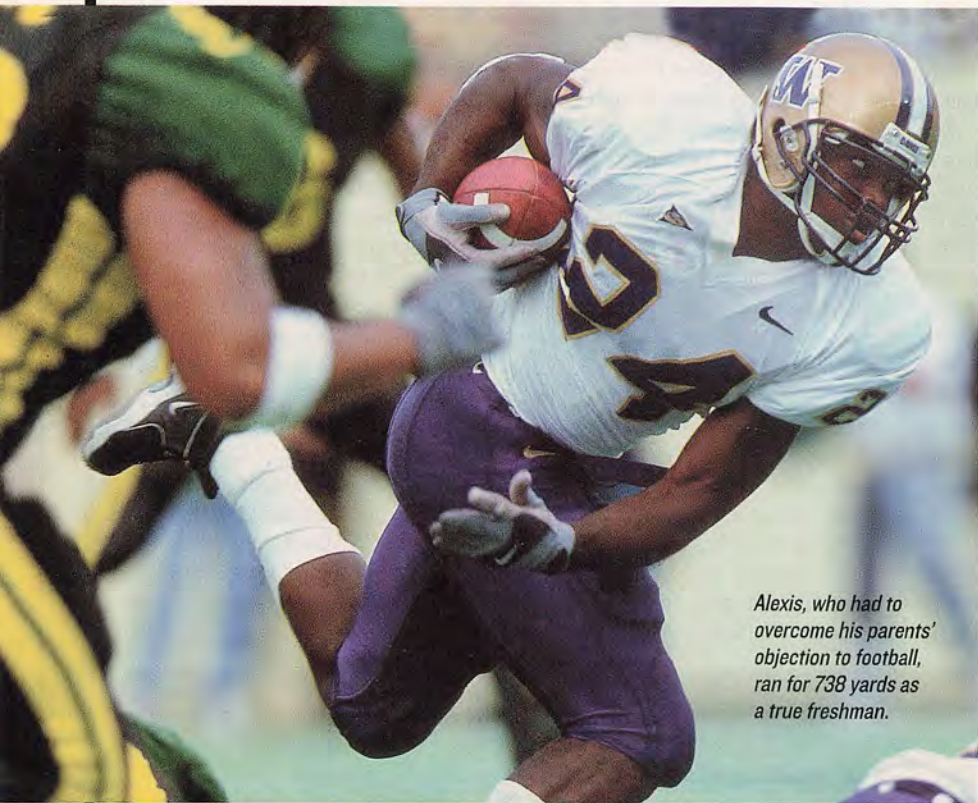
ROBERT BECK



In addition to being the team’s top receiver, Lockett sparks Kansas State with his kickoff and punt returns.

WASHINGTON

After turning a cameo role into a smash hit,
running back Rich Alexis now plays the lead



Alexis, who had to overcome his parents' objection to football, ran for 738 yards as a true freshman.

JOHN W. McDONOUGH

>> **ONE-AND-DONE.** That's what Rick Neuheisel had in mind when he sent freshman running back Rich Alexis onto the Husky Stadium field against Miami in the third quarter of Washington's second game of last season. Neuheisel knew that Alexis's parents were watching the nationally televised game in Coral Springs, Fla., and that it might be the only time they would see the Huskies play all season. So he sent his third-string back into the huddle for one play only and called 19 Option. "I wanted to show his parents that he was doing O.K.," recalls Neuheisel.

On a first-and-10 at the 50-yard line, with Washington leading 21-9, Alexis took the pitch and sprinted 50 yards for a touchdown. Neuheisel sent Alexis in for another play. Then another. By January, after the Huskies' 34-24 victory over Purdue in the Rose Bowl, Alexis

had accumulated more rushing yardage (738) than any other true freshman in school history. "It was obvious against Miami that Rich was special," says Neuheisel. "After he scored, I said to myself, God, I must be a genius."

Alexis had drawn little interest from colleges because he had played only one full season of high school football, as a senior. His parents wouldn't let him try out for the sport because they considered it too dangerous, so he forged their signatures on a consent form and hid his uniform in the garage. "When they finally discovered I was playing, I convinced them that football could provide me with a scholarship," says Alexis. "So they let me."

Joining Alexis in the Huskies' backfield will probably be sophomore quarterback Cody Pickett, who has thrown six passes in his career and will get the first shot at

succeeding Marques Tuiasosopo. On defense, end Larry Tripplett and fellow linemen Marcus Roberson, a senior, and Ossim Hatem, a junior, will need to pressure opposing passers to help a young secondary that will be tested right away: The Huskies open at home against Michigan, then travel to Miami.

"We need to have success early to gain confidence," says Neuheisel, "but this team knows what it takes to win." So does Neuheisel: All he needs is another ingenious substitution. —Lars Anderson

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 11-1 (7-1, TI in Pac 10)

Final ranking: No. 3 AP, No. 3 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

13

Come-from-behind victories by Washington among its last 18 wins, including eight of 11 last season.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Huskies

“The offense won't fall off as much as people believe. **Paul Arnold's** move from running back to receiver will make a big difference, and the line could be the best in the Pac 10. If **Jerramy Stevens** stays out of trouble [he pleaded guilty in June to a

misdemeanor charge of hit and run causing property damage and was sentenced to 240 hours of community service], he'll be the top tight end in the league. . . . Defensive end **Larry Tripplett** is a force on the inside. He'll lead a group of guys who'll blitz you all day.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 17th of 117

Sept. 8 MICHIGAN

15 at Miami

22 IDAHO

29 at California

Oct. 6 USC

13 at UCLA

20 ARIZONA

27 at Arizona State

Nov. 3 STANFORD

10 at Oregon State

17 WASHINGTON ST.

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WISCONSIN

The Badgers have long relied on the run; now they will ride the arm of their quarterback

» JUNIOR QUARTERBACK Brooks Bollinger is quick to point out that major league baseball's infatuation with strong-armed Big Ten passers extends beyond Ann Arbor. No, he may not be a \$17-million bonus baby like Michigan's Drew Henson, who in March signed a six-year deal to play third base for the Yankees, but Bollinger was a 50th-round draft choice of the Dodgers in 2000. "I don't think they're going to offer me \$17 million like Drew got," Bollinger, a shortstop, says. "Right now, I'm devoted to football."

That's good news for coach Barry Alvarez, who has good depth at quarterback with Bollinger (17-3 as a starter) and sophomore backup Jim Sorgi. Still, after losing 12 starters, plus two kickers, questions dog the team at nearly every other position, particularly running back. As if losing leading rusher Michael Bennett to the NFL wasn't enough of a blow, Wis-

consin was dealt a big setback in the spring when sophomore Broderick Williams, who was supposed to become the starter, suffered a season-ending torn ACL in his left knee. Ready or not, red-shirt freshmen Anthony Davis, Tyron Griffin and Jerone Pettus will have to make immediate contributions, which means Wisconsin's streak of eight seasons with a 1,000-yard running back is in peril.

The days of relying solely on the rushing game may be a thing of the past in Madison anyway. After watching Northwestern ride its multiple-wideout formations to a share of the Big Ten title last fall—and knowing his line is callow—Alvarez installed the spread offense. Though the spread will add spice to Wisconsin's game, the Badgers won't be a power in the conference unless they plug a leaky defense that permitted too many big plays last season. The unit will have

six new starters, but considering its performance last year, that may be a plus.

During the off-season the 54-year-old Alvarez flirted with the vacant coaching job at Miami before taking himself out of the running. He then vowed to finish his career at Wisconsin and signed a new deal in the spring that extends his contract through 2006. "I was more serious about the Miami job than any job I've talked about before," Alvarez says. "But there are still some things I want to accomplish here." —R.D.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-4 (4-4, T5 in Big Ten)

Final ranking: No. 23 AP, No. 24 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

67

Consecutive seasons Wisconsin has played Northwestern, a streak that comes to an end this year.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Badgers

“Quarterback **Brooks Bollinger** scares me as a runner; the guy can really move on the perimeter. He's a good enough thrower, but Wisconsin hasn't tried to throw much. . . . I keep hearing they want to spread it out. Is that four receivers? Three? I anticipate they'll spread out to get athlete on athlete and let Bollinger run. . . . [Defensive coordinator] **Kevin Cosgrove** does a good job. The team is very sound. . . . **Mike Echols** is a good corner.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 39th of 117

Aug. 25 VIRGINIA	
Sept. 1	at Oregon
8	FRESNO STATE
15	WESTERN KENTUCKY
22	at Penn State
Oct. 6	INDIANA
13	at Ohio State
20	at Illinois
27	MICHIGAN STATE
Nov. 3	IOWA
17	MICHIGAN
24	at Minnesota

Bollinger, a former shortstop, was drafted by the Dodgers, but he's taking a pass on baseball.



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NOTRE DAME

With few turnovers—on the field and on the roster—the Irish may not need much luck

>> AT A PEP RALLY on the day before the Irish were to play Stanford last October, coach Bob Davie told the crowd that his team, which was a disappointing 2-2, was capable of running the table. "You say a lot of things at pep rallies, but I felt pretty good about it," he says now. "Though we weren't sure how the freshman quarterback would play."

The game against the Cardinal would be the first started by quarterback Matt LoVecchio, a true freshman who hadn't distinguished himself in one brief appearance. However, after junior Arnaz Battle went down with a broken left wrist in the second game and sophomore Gary Godsey was ineffective as his replacement, Davie had to decide which of his three

freshmen should start: LoVecchio, cannon-armed Jared Clark or athletic scrambler Carlyle Holiday? "Matt was a combination [of the other two]," says Davie.

LoVecchio also won out because of his extraordinary calmness. His father, Larry, says that if a tornado were to hit the LoVecchio house while Matt was home alone, Matt wouldn't even mention it when the rest of the family returned. "I might have to check his pulse once in a while," says Davie. "He can handle the big stage at Notre Dame. You've got to have thick skin and keep things in perspective."

If anyone knows about that, it's Davie, who began hearing calls for his job after the Irish split their first four games.

Things began to improve after LoVecchio moved under center. He didn't do anything fancy—the Irish ranked 76th in the country in total offense (345.7 yards per game)—but Notre Dame turned the ball over only eight times during the regular season. Indeed, the Irish won their last seven games of the season before losing 41-9 to Oregon State in the Fiesta Bowl.

LoVecchio will guide an offense rich in returning talent, including the team's leading rusher (junior Julius Jones) and receiver (senior David Givens). LoVecchio also has a new target: Battle, who has made a smooth transition to wide receiver. The defense will get a boost with the return of senior end Grant Irons, who dislocated his right shoulder in the second game and missed the rest of last season. The secondary, though, has a few questions, especially after being torched

for 319 passing yards by Oregon State.

LoVecchio didn't have a stellar day against the Beavers, either, completing 13 of 33 passes with two interceptions and a fumble. Nonetheless, Davie gave Clark and Holiday virtually no chance of unseating LoVecchio in the spring, primarily because the Irish open with a brutal stretch of road games in which experience will be important. LoVecchio's first test will be on Sept. 8 at Nebraska. Davie's will be 13 days later. That's when the first pep rally is scheduled.

—M.B.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-3

Final ranking: No. 15 AP, No. 16 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

4

Fumbles lost in 2000, the fewest in school history and the third fewest in Division I-A last fall.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Irish

“ Their quarterback, **Matt LoVecchio**, makes good decisions, but he has average arm strength and average speed. . . . What concerns me is what they'll do with [quarterback turned flanker] **Arnaz Battle**. He could be dangerous on the [outside]. . . . The defensive linemen may not run well, but we had a hard time moving them. Most colleges play with rush ends who weigh 250. Their ends [6' 5", 275-pound **Grant Irons** and 6' 3", 276-pound **Anthony Weaver**] are strong, physical rushers. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 6th of 117

Sept. 8	at Nebraska
15	at Purdue
22	MICHIGAN STATE
29	at Texas A&M
Oct. 6	PITTSBURGH
13	WEST VIRGINIA
20	USC
27	at Boston College
Nov. 3	TENNESSEE
17	NAVY
24	at Stanford

Notre Dame's leading rusher and receiver return, giving sophomore LoVecchio plenty of options.



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SOUTH CAROLINA

Lou Holtz's Gamecocks have turned things around, but they're not finished yet

>> SOUTH CAROLINA'S dream season had closed with a 24-7 victory over Ohio State in the Outback Bowl, and before the celebrating kicked into full swing, Lou Holtz took the time to lay a few more bricks in the rebuilding of the program. "This win proves what we can do," he said to his players. "Now let's take it to another level. I'm not satisfied, and you shouldn't be either."

There is more promise in the air in Columbia, S.C., at the start of a new season than there has been in a decade. The Gamecocks began 2000 winless in their previous 21 starts; they ended it with an unshakable belief that they can win their first SEC crown since joining the league nine years ago. Some of the optimism stems from having 18 starters back, the most Holtz recalls ever having had in the 30 years he's been a head coach. "We realize that we have to keep everything in perspective," says senior quarterback Phil Petty, who threw only 10

interceptions in 315 attempts last season. "But we also know that we can play with anybody. We proved that last year."

The biggest question mark on offense is whether junior running back Derek Watson can stay out of trouble. Last season he rushed for 1,066 yards and was the SEC's leader in all-purpose yards (166.7 per game). But Holtz suspended him for the Outback Bowl after he wrecked teammate Teddy Crawford's car at 3 a.m. on Dec. 21. (Watson was convicted of driving with a suspended license.) In May, Holtz suspended Watson again after a female student claimed that he hit her in the arm. (Watson was charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, but his lawyers have asked that he be allowed to enter a pretrial intervention program that would erase the charge from his record.) On Sunday, Holtz said that the running back had "done everything we've asked him to do"

and had therefore been reinstated. With Watson in the fold, junior Ryan Brewer returns to wideout. Brewer was named MVP of the Outback Bowl after rushing for 109 yards and catching three passes for 92 yards as Watson's replacement.

With eight starters back on defense, Holtz expects that unit to dominate as thoroughly as last year's, which finished sixth in the nation in scoring defense (15.8 points per game). "We have a chance to be good," says Holtz. "We're not in the driver's seat yet, but we're now in the car." —L.A.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (5-3, T2 in SEC East)

Final ranking: No. 19 AP, No. 21 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

59.5%

Gamecocks' red zone scoring efficiency, last in the SEC in 2000.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Gamecocks

“ Even when they were 0-11 [in 1999], they played good defense. [Defensive coordinator] **Charlie Strong** has done one of the best jobs in the country. He takes offenses out of what they want to do, and

on third down he puts in great blitzes and coverage changes. . . .

Derek Watson is a talented running back, and quarterback **Phil Petty** improved every game. [Backup quarterback] **Dondrial Pinkins** didn't have a good grasp of the offense, but he's so talented. He'll play. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 29th of 117

Sept. 1 **BOISE STATE**
8 at Georgia
15 **BOWLING GREEN**
22 at Mississippi State
29 **ALABAMA**

Oct. 6 **KENTUCKY**
13 vs. Arkansas*
20 **VANDERBILT**
27 at Tennessee

Nov. 10 **FLORIDA**
17 **CLEMSON**
*At Little Rock



With Watson back on board, Brewer (with ball), the Outback Bowl MVP, returns to his receiver spot.

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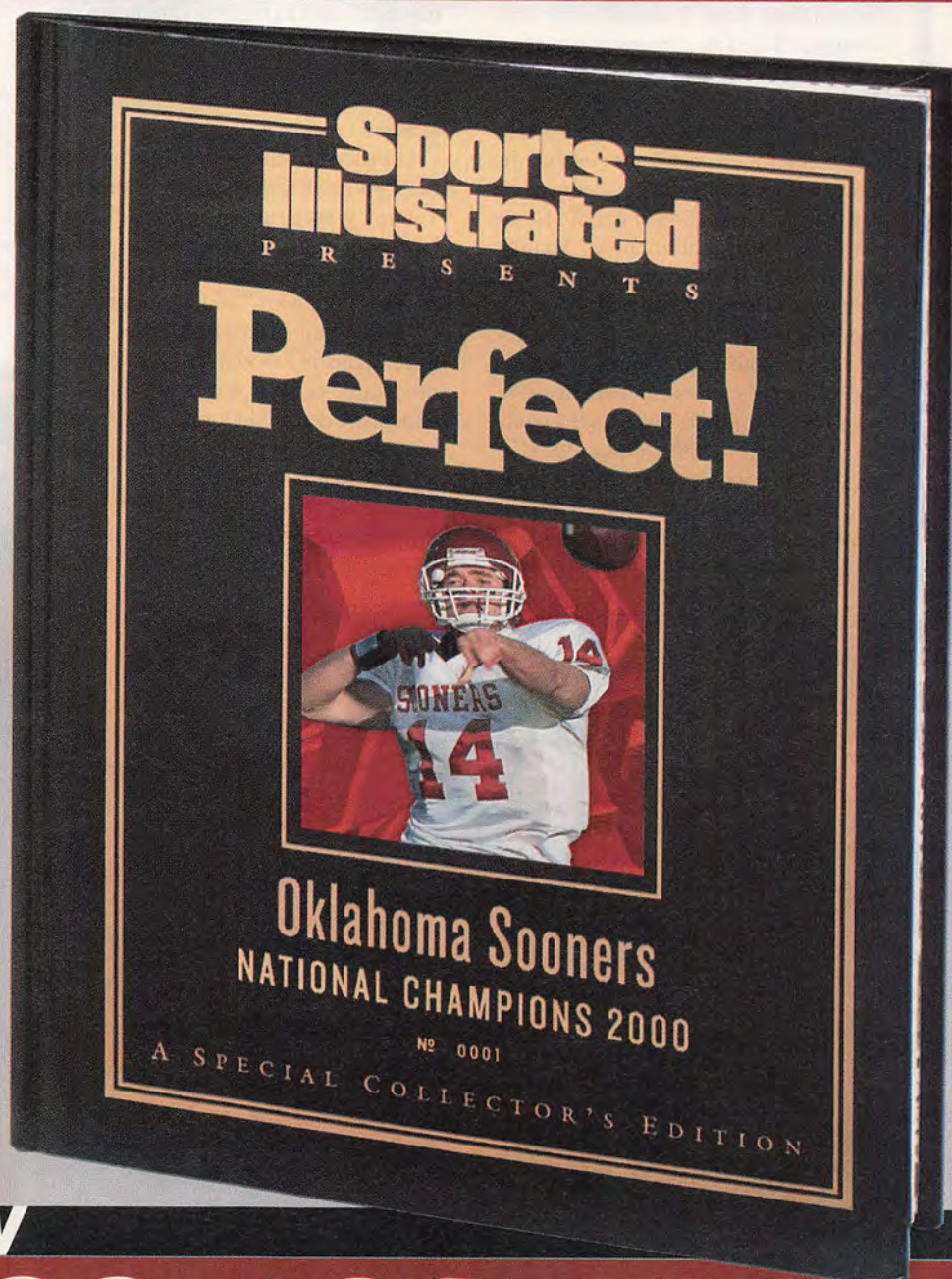
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CLEMSON

Past glory spurs the Tigers to reach for the stars in coach Tommy Bowden's third year

» ON MOST Thursday nights during the past three football seasons center Kyle Young gathered teammates for burgers and sweet tea at Mac's Drive-In, where they occupied the 13 orange stools and watched videotapes of the Tigers' greatest victories on the old Zenith behind the counter. On a wall is a grainy photo of the 1939 Clemson team, which went 9-1, won the Cotton Bowl and included Young's grandfather Ed McLendon, who played both ways at tackle. Kyle's father, Ron, has coordinated TV timeouts between the broadcast booth and the game officials at Tigers home games for two decades. Kyle's older brother, Will, played guard for Clemson from 1992 through '95. Having grown up within a half mile of Clemson Memorial Stadium, a.k.a. Death Valley, Kyle, now a senior, has attended or played in more than 140 games there.

"Clemson football is very personal to me, and I want to help my teammates understand the amazing legacy of success that we've inherited," Young says. "I grew up watching cocky Clemson teams that *expected* to win every game."

Since the arrival of coach Tommy Bowden two years ago, after a 3-8 record in Tommy West's final season, the Tigers have progressed to six victories in '99 and nine last year. Bowden's theme for 2001 is "double-digit wins," and he doesn't have to spell out the primary obstacles to that goal. Clemson has endured four consecutive three-point losses to Georgia Tech and hasn't defeated Florida State in nine tries since the Seminoles joined the ACC.

"Our goal is to put the *Death* back in Death Valley," says senior quarterback Woodrow Dantzler. "It feels as if we've been reaching for a trophy that's 37 inches

above us and we've got a 36-inch vertical jump. We have to work a little harder to get that last inch."

The Tigers' litmus test, against Florida State, comes on Nov. 3, the day Clemson celebrates the 20th anniversary of its only national championship season. "I have this vision of future Tigers players going to Mac's to watch our 2001 team play," Young says. "I'd like them to see us finally beat Florida State and have them say, 'That's the team that brought back Clemson's swagger.'"

—Tim Crothers

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 9-3 (6-2, 2nd in ACC)

Final ranking: No. 16 AP, No. 14 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

1,028

Yards rushing in 2000 for Woodrow Dantzler, the most ever by an ACC quarterback.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Tigers

“Quarterback Woodrow Dantzler is more like a running back. He can break tackles and can make you miss. Backup Willie Simmons might be a better passer. He's going to be a good player. . . . Linebacker Chad Carson is tough and

smart. You can tell he studies film. He gets the defense lined up, makes the checks and looks like a leader on the field. . . . Clemson has some athletic defensive tackles [Nick Eason and Jovon Bush]. . . . The Tigers signed two All-Americans at wide receiver.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 64th of 117

Sept. 1 CENTRAL FLORIDA
8 WOFFORD
15 DUKE
22 VIRGINIA
29 at Georgia Tech

Oct. 13 at N.C. State
20 NORTH CAROLINA
27 at Wake Forest

Nov. 3 FLORIDA STATE
10 at Maryland
17 at South Carolina



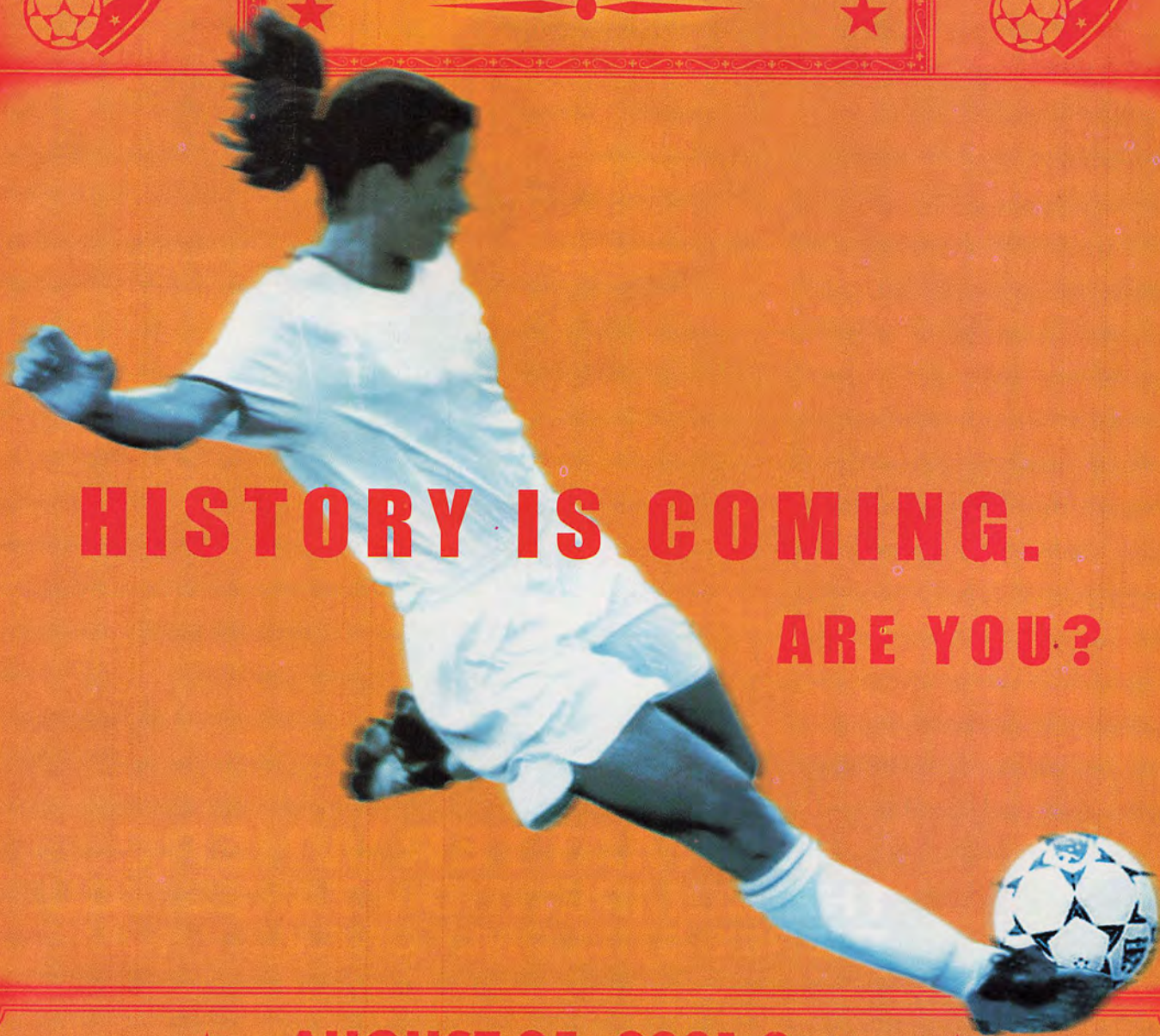
Dantzler helped Clemson to nine wins last year but couldn't end the run of futility against Florida State.



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TEXAS A&M

Can latecomer Mark Farris wheel the Aggies into a Big 12 showdown in November?

➤ JUNIOR QUARTERBACK Mark Farris knows the storyline has been played out before: Coveted high school quarterback gets drafted by a major league team and decides to play baseball, only he's buried in the minors, quits after a few seasons and returns to his other love, football. For example, Chris Weinke, a former first baseman in the Toronto Blue Jays organization, performed so well in the role that after batting .248 over six seasons, he went to Florida State and won a national champi-

onship and then a Heisman Trophy at 28.

Farris, now in his second season as the Aggies' starter after five years in the Pittsburgh Pirates' system, would love to do the same. "Am I really the second coming of Chris Weinke?" jokes Farris, 26, who is married and the father of a six-year-old daughter, Kameryn. "Actually, I think the whole age thing is way overplayed, but what can I do? Of course, it would be great if it all turned out the way it did for Weinke. Like him, I came back to play and be part of something special. Remember, no one predicted Oklahoma would win it all last season except for Oklahoma."

The Aggies don't have the firepower to match the Sooners' turnaround, not with the departure of bulldozing fullback Ja'Mar Toombs and crafty wideout Robert Ferguson to the NFL. Still, with 11 returning starters A&M should be in the thick of the

Big 12 title chase when November showdowns against Oklahoma and Texas roll around. The Aggies should get quality rushing yards out of sophomore Richard Whitaker and junior Joe Weber, who will have an All-America candidate, center Seth McKinney, helping clear a path for them. At wideout, senior Bethel Johnson returns after finishing second on the team with 42 catches (440 yards).

The Wrecking Crew defense, which gave up 17.8 points per game in 2000, will rely on junior cornerback Sammy Davis (four interceptions) and junior nosetackle Ty Warren (16 tackles for loss and five sacks) to help it improve on last year's 7-5 finish. "Don't be fooled for a second by our record last year," says coach R. C. Slocum. "A couple of key losses [to Colorado, 26-19, and Oklahoma, 35-31] did us in and weren't a true reflection of what this team was." —Elizabeth Newman

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 7-5 (5-3, 3rd Big 12 South)

Final ranking: Not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

455

Rushing yards by Richard Whitaker in 2000, the lowest team-leading total in 17 seasons.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Aggies

“ They replaced three coaches on offense, so they're a bit of an enigma. I like quarterback **Mark Farris's** poise and composure. The issue is whether they'll be able to run the ball and take pressure off him. Their offensive line does

not have a lot of good players, but they play well together. On defense, their front seven will be as good as anyone's. They have real physical kids. Until the middle of last season nosetackle **Ty Warren** was just an O.K. player, but he's started to come into his own. ”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 42nd of 117

- Sept. 1 McNEESE STATE
6 at Wyoming
22 OKLAHOMA STATE
29 NOTRE DAME
- Oct. 6 BAYLOR
13 at Colorado
20 at Kansas State
27 IOWA STATE
- Nov. 3 at Texas Tech
10 at Oklahoma
23 TEXAS

PETER READ MILLER



The Wrecking Crew stacked up admirably last year, ranking 10th in the nation in scoring defense.

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MISSISSIPPI STATE

The Bulldogs will go as far as the arm and legs of a seasoned Wayne Madkin take them

>> WAYNE MADKIN grew up in Huntsville, Ala., a town where folks are so unaccustomed to snow that all activity comes to a halt if radar indicates a flurry within 50 miles. After Madkin fumbled away the snap in snowy conditions on the first play of the Independence Bowl last December, he told coach Jackie Sherrill that his hands were frozen. "Wayne, you've got two choices," Sherrill told him. "Thaw 'em out, or I'm going to put [backup] Kevin [Fant] in." Madkin slipped his hands into a heating pad on the sideline and

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (4-4, T3 in SEC West)

Final ranking: No. 24 AP, No. 22 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

-78

Rushing yards allowed last Sept. 30 against Florida, shattering the team record of -21 yards set in 1939.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Bulldogs

“Wayne Madkin has matured, but he will make a mistake and isn't a guy who can get them out of third-and-six. . . .

Dicenzo Miller and Dontae Walker are good backs and they run behind a huge line. But they're so big up front you can

run around them and make plays. . . . I like [offensive coordinator] Sparky Woods, but they could be more imaginative. . . . They try to win with defense and the kicking game, which they can do most times, but if you control their running game, you can beat them.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 40th of 117

Sept. 3	MEMPHIS
15	BYU
20	SOUTH CAROLINA
29	at Florida
Oct. 6	at Auburn
13	TROY STATE
20	LSU
Nov. 3	KENTUCKY
10	at Alabama
17	at Arkansas
22	MISSISSIPPI



ERIK CAMPOS/THE STATE

played the game of his life in the Bulldogs' 43-41 overtime win over Texas A&M.

As a redshirt freshman in '98, Madkin was thrust into the lineup after the offense sputtered three games into the season. He has become the school's career passing leader and has won 23 of 33 starts. He has a strong arm and is a proficient scrambler. "There's a sixth sense to being a quarterback," Sherrill says. "Dan Marino, Steve Young, Joe Montana, they had it. It's something you can't teach."

Despite controlling its destiny in the SEC West with two games left in each of the past three years, Mississippi State has won the division just once. That was in 1998, but in a 24-14 loss to Tennessee in the SEC title game, Madkin completed

Madkin is already the school's career passing leader, and he has won 23 of 33 starts to boot.

only 10 of 22 passes and threw two interceptions. Since then, he has become more accurate. A 48.2% passer as a freshman, he hit on 56.1% of his attempts last year.

Defensively, All-America safety Edward (Pig) Prather and rugged linebacker Mario Haggan must anchor things until the front four matures. Should the Bulldogs get back to the title game, they'll have a weapon they lacked against the Vols. "[In terms of maturity] Wayne wasn't ready to play in that game," says Sherrill. "He was a great athlete playing quarterback. He's made himself into a great quarterback." —M.B.

UCLA

After two dismal seasons, the retooled Bruins
are saying they have something to prove

» THE MATH is simple: UCLA won 10 games in 1997 and 10 in '98. Then the Bruins won 10 games again—in the last two seasons combined. At first glance the defense was to blame for the drop-off to 4-7 and 6-6 records. UCLA couldn't stop most teams, permitting 28.3 points per game in '99 and 31.5 last year. In January coach Bob Toledo hired Arizona State defensive coordinator Phil Snow to make the defense more aggressive. A closer inspection of the downturn, however, indicates that the Bruins need to make big strides on offense as well, and they have the tools to do so.

It's a tribute to Toledo, a career offensive coach, that last season's injury-riddled, oft-overmatched unit scored the 30.3 points per game that it did. UCLA depended heavily on big plays from wideouts Freddie Mitchell, who left early for the NFL, and Brian Poli-Dixon, a senior

this season. The Bruins believe they will improve if they better mix the run and pass. That will happen, says assistant coach Mark Weber, if his linemen sustain their blocks longer. Toward that end, he wants them coming out of their stances about eight inches lower than they did in the past. That will give them more leverage to control would-be tacklers.

This offensive line is the Bruins' most experienced since the conference-winning team of '98. Its cause will be helped if senior tailback DeShaun Foster and junior quarterback Cory Paus can make it through the season injury-free. Foster missed almost all of two games after breaking a bone in his right hand on Sept. 30 against Arizona State. Paus separated his right shoulder on UCLA's first play of last season and missed four games. He returned to complete 56% of his passes, throwing for 2,154 yards and 17 touch-

downs with nine interceptions. However, on the last play of the first half in the Sun Bowl, he refractured the left collarbone that he broke late in '99. Paus, who threw without a hitch in spring practice, will be ready for the season opener, at Alabama.

These Bruins have high expectations. A few players were contributors on the league championship team three years ago. Many of the others signed with UCLA because of that success. "This is our chance," says junior offensive tackle Mike Saffer, "to prove what we can do." —I.M.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 6-6 (3-5, T5 in Pac-10)

Final ranking: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

31.5

Points allowed per game last season, the most of any team with a nonlosing record.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Bruins

“UCLA could be outstanding on defense, led by **Kenyon Coleman**, a big end who can run. . . . The Bruins have a great linebacker in **Robert Thomas** and could have the best secondary speed in the nation behind Miami's. . . . **DeShaun Foster** is as

good an inside zone runner as I've seen. He could be the first running back picked in next year's draft. . . . Sophomore wideout **Tab Perry** is awfully talented too. . . . Typical Bruins: They recruit so well and have so much talent that they never really fall far.”

SCHEDULE

Strength: 5th of 117

Sept. 1 at Alabama
8 at Kansas
15 ARIZONA STATE
22 OHIO STATE
29 at Oregon State

Oct. 13 WASHINGTON
20 CALIFORNIA
27 at Stanford

Nov. 3 at Washington State
10 OREGON
17 at USC

Give him just a crack of daylight, and Foster, who rushed for 930 yards last year, is off to the races.



A low-angle, close-up photograph of Tiger Woods in the middle of a golf swing. He is wearing a black Nike baseball cap and a grey and white horizontally striped polo shirt. The background is a clear blue sky.

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EAST CAROLINA

The Pirates will pull out all the stops in a bid for their first Conference USA title

» DURING THE seemingly endless sprint sets that players ran starting at 3 p.m., five days a week, all summer long, some Pirates would glance toward the window of an air-conditioned office overlooking the practice field to see if the man responsible for their misery was peering through the curtains. He was. "I'd check the temperature, which was usually hovering around 95 degrees," says coach Steve Logan, a Weather Channel fanatic. "I want these guys in condition to win on the last play of every game."

With 15 starters back from a team that defeated Texas Tech 40-27 in the galleryfurniture.com Bowl, it's easy to understand Logan's motivation. The Pirates are equipped to win their first Conference USA title and finish in the Top 25 for the

first time since 1995. To do so, they'll need to break a bad habit. "We take some teams too lightly," says senior quarterback David Garrard, alluding to defeats to conference foes Alabama-Birmingham and Memphis, both of whom finished behind East Carolina in the standings.

More often than not, though, the Pirates are overlooked. They have upset several high-profile opponents, including handing Miami its worst home loss in 12 years, in 1996. Last season the Pirates tripped Syracuse 34-17. "That's the essence of East Carolina," says the Oklahoma-bred Logan, who credits growing up watching the Sooners and his veneration of Bill Walsh for the Pirates' effective mix of option football, trick plays and drop-back passing. "We can't break through that glass ceiling by being conservative."

Fake punts, reverses and on-side kicks will be featured among East Carolina's menu of plays this season. So will Take Off, a play in which Garrard throws deep to one of four or five receivers sprinting downfield. Logan has a knack for showcasing the talent of his quarterbacks, and Garrard, a 6'3", 235-pound Daunte Culpepper look-alike whose arm generated half the team's scores last season, is no exception.

Sharing the marquee with Garrard will be senior middle linebacker Pernell Griffin, who had a team-high 87 tackles in 2000 despite missing three games with a torn MCL in his left knee. Now healthy, Griffin will reinforce a defense

that last season was sometimes soft against the run. The secondary has all four starters back, but the defensive line lost two veteran tackles.

Showing some recruiting muscle, Logan beat out in-state rivals for Paul Troth, the top-rated quarterback in North Carolina. Whether Troth eventually matches Garrard's output remains to be seen. "He's a pup," says Logan, "but he'll get stronger and stronger."

As long as Logan is the man behind the curtain, so will East Carolina. —K.K.

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-4 (5-2, T2 in Conf. USA)

Final ranking: Not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

103

Games Steve Logan has coached at East Carolina, making him the team's longest-tenured coach.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Pirates

"You had better bring your A game against this team. Its multiple-set offense creates problems because the players are constantly shifting. It forces you to prepare for lots of things. . . . David Garrard is the key. He's a big kid, and he

can throw the ball as far as anybody. . . . The Pirates will miss Keith Stokes but have a nice running back in Leonard Henry. . . .

The defensive line can pressure you without blitzing and does a good job disguising its coverage, but it can be hurt by a strong running game."

SCHEDULE

Strength: 81st of 117

Sept. 1 WAKE FOREST
8 at Tulane
15 at Syracuse
22 WILLIAM & MARY

Oct. 6 at North Carolina
13 at Army
20 MEMPHIS
30 at TCU

Nov. 10 at Cincinnati
15 LOUISVILLE
23 SOUTHERN MISS



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Whether looking for a receiver on a Take Off pass route or taking off himself, Garrard is dangerous.



Ruin a \$200 haircut in seconds flat.

UNLV

John Robinson's gamble will continue to pay off for the up-and-coming Rebels

» WHEN FORMER USC and Los Angeles Rams coach John Robinson accepted an offer to take over the moribund UNLV football program 2½ years ago, he didn't overanalyze the situation. "I thought it would be an exciting challenge," says Robinson, 66, the ninth-winningest active coach in Division I-A. "It wasn't until I got here that I realized how bad it really was."

Everywhere he looked, he saw defeat. The record book was bad enough—among UNLV's feats of futility were an 0-11 in 1998 and no wins on the road and no bowl games since '94—but the players' state of mind was worse. "Their confidence was horrible," recalls Robinson. "Football was like punishment to them." The practice field, a bleak patch of turf surrounded by fencing topped with barbed wire, even suggested a prison yard.

Thanks in part to skillful transplantation by Robinson, the program is much more respectable. Among the improve-

ments are a roster larded with Division I-A and junior college transfers, a ring of palm trees around the practice field and 11 wins over the last two seasons, including a 31-14 pasting of Arkansas in the Las Vegas Bowl. This summer the sports information office is cranking up a Heisman Trophy campaign.

"UNLV's not chopped liver anymore," says junior quarterback Jason Thomas, the focus of that campaign and, aside from Robinson, the biggest reason for the program's rise. A 6' 4", 230-pound lefty who can throw the ball 70 yards, Thomas was recruited out of Dominguez High in Los Angeles by Robinson before USC fired the coach in 1997. Thomas redshirted his first year with USC, then transferred when it became apparent that he wouldn't get to compete for the starting spot the following fall. After sitting out in '99, he had a dazzling 2000, throwing for 1,708 yards and 14 touchdowns and rushing for 599

yards—the school's *career* record for a quarterback—plus 11 more touchdowns. "You know when you're playing tag and some guys never get caught?" asks Robinson. "That's Jason. He has great elusiveness."

That'll be important this fall because improving on last year's 8-5 record won't be easy given a schedule that is probably the toughest in school history. "I say, if you're going for the ride, go all the way, don't hedge your bets," says Robinson. For this Vegas gambler, that could turn out to be a winning strategy. —Kelli Anderson

FAST FACTS

2000 record: 8-5 (4-3, 3rd in Mountain West)

Final ranking: Not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

30

Sacks by the Rebels' defensive line in 2000, doubling its 1999 total.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing team's coach sizes up the Rebels

"When I started looking at tape of them in the spring, I thought, If we play well, we'll beat them. Now I'm watching it thinking, They are exceptionally well-coached. . . . I haven't seen many teams block as well as they do, no matter what

scheme you line up in. You don't see opposing defensive people getting into their backfield. . . . Jason Thomas can be sloppy, but he's a big-play quarterback. . . . The question is, How good is their running back? Coach John Robinson has always had good tailbacks."

SCHEDULE

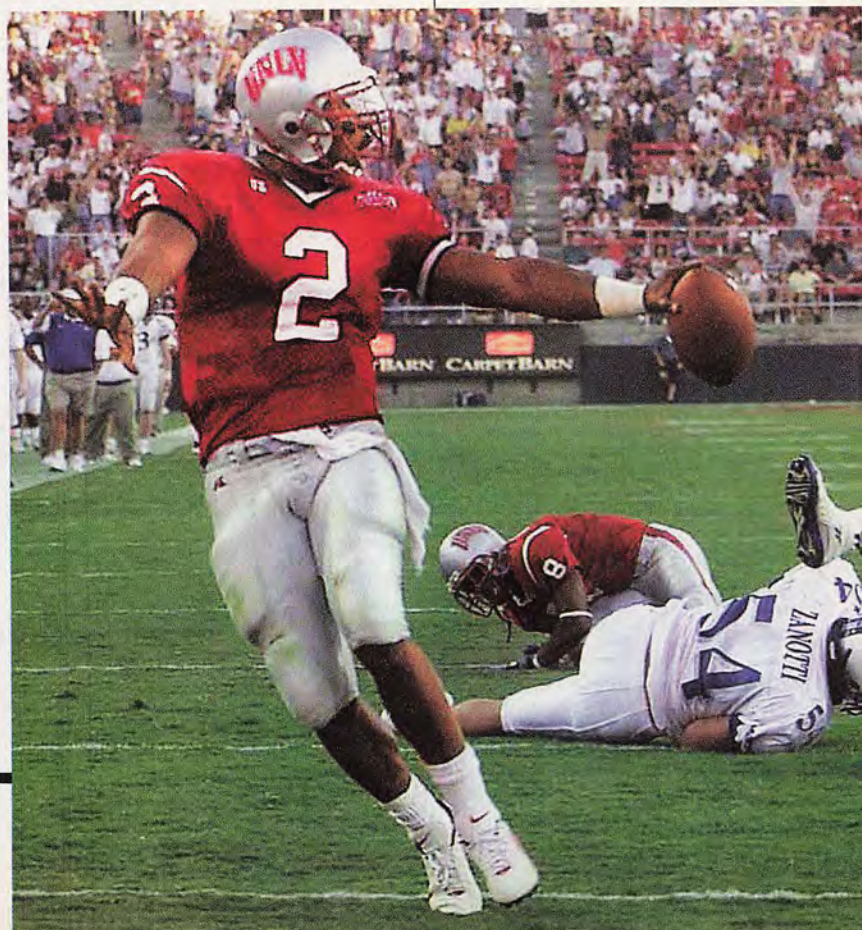
Strength: 57th of 117

Aug. 30 at Arkansas

Sept. 7 NORTHWESTERN
14 COLORADO STATE
22 at Arizona
29 BYU

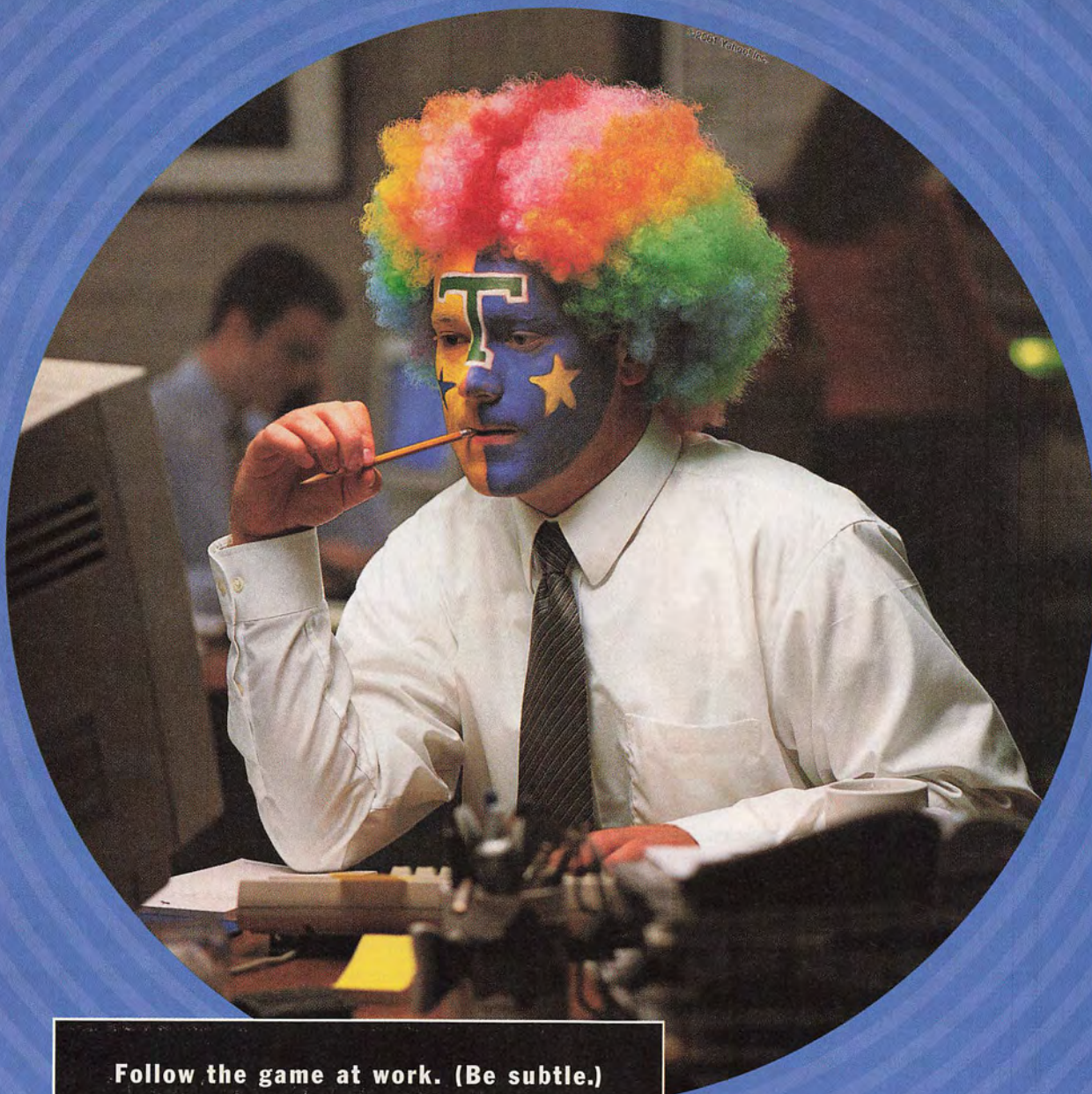
Oct. 6 at Nevada
13 SAN DIEGO STATE
27 at Wyoming

Nov. 3 UTAH
10 at New Mexico
17 at Air Force



CLINT KANE/REUTERS LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

One of many transfers sparking UNLV's turnaround, Thomas hurts foes with his elusiveness and his arm.



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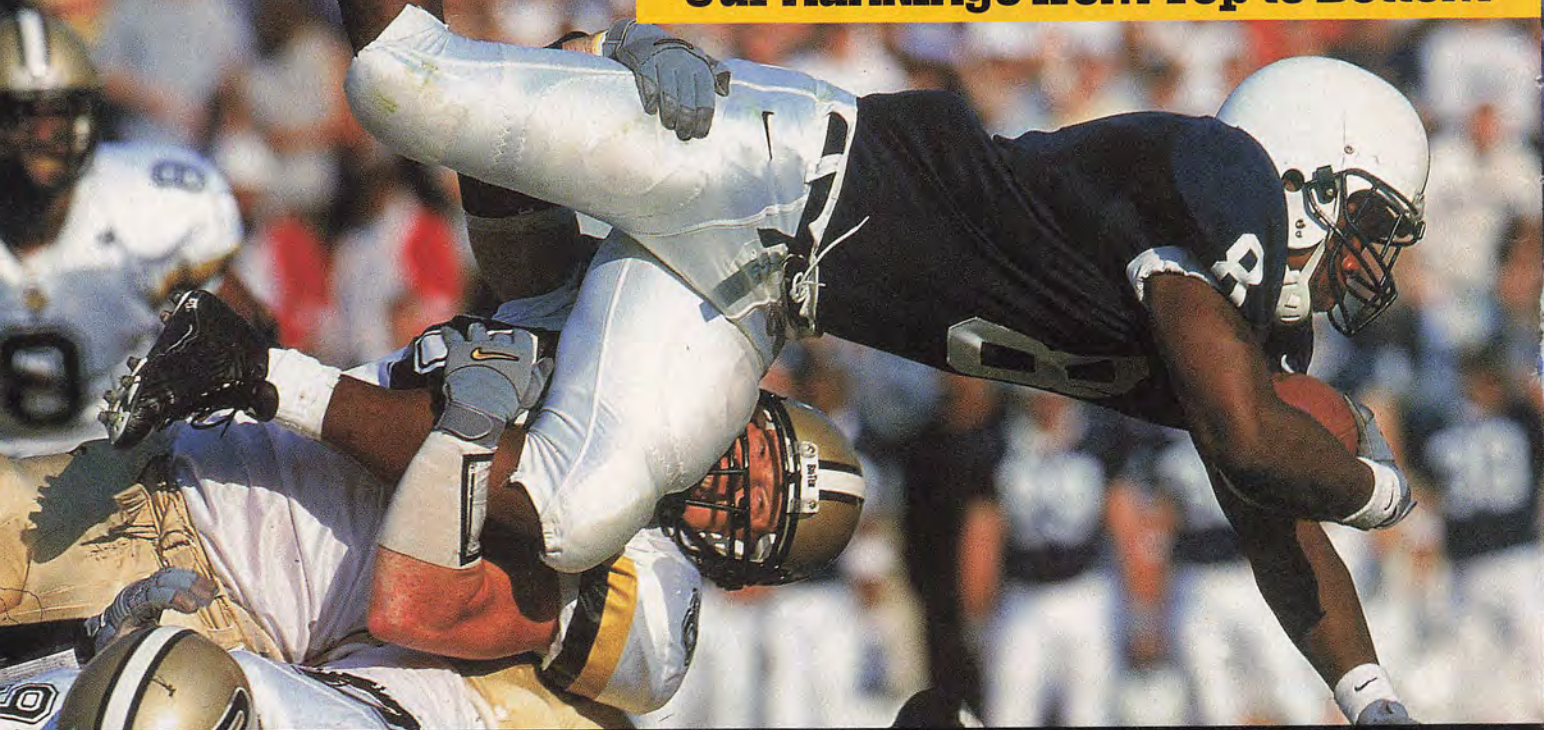
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TOUGH STRETCH

A daunting early schedule may topple Eric McCoo and the No. 40 Nittany Lions.

1 to 117

Our Rankings from Top to Bottom



RANK	TEAM (FINAL 2000 AP TOP 25 RANK)	2000 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	
1	Oregon State (4)	11-1	11	45	Beavers, who were 1-10 in 1991 and haven't finished unbeaten since 1907, will end up smelling Roses
2	Florida (10)	10-3	18	15	Gator bait? Tennessee, Mississippi State and Florida State visit the Swamp this season
3	Miami (2)	11-1	16	36	Four of five starters are back on a mammoth offensive line that allowed only nine sacks last year
4	Texas (12)	9-3	17	48	Longhorns are one of only three I-A teams with two 1,000-yard passers on their roster
5	Oklahoma (1)	13-0	16	51	Lost amid the Josh Heupel hype: Wideout Antwone Savage caught 48 passes as a sophomore
6	Florida State (5)	11-2	10	14	The Seminoles have not lost at home since 1991 ("Wide Right I" vs. Miami), a streak of 52 games
7	Oregon (7)	10-2	12	25	J.C. transfer Maurice Morris set a school record for first-year rushers with 1,118 yards last season
8	Nebraska (8)	10-2	14	53	Tight end Tracey Wistrom, little brother of former All-America DE Grant, is Eric Crouch's No. 1 target
9	Tennessee	8-4	17	9	John Henderson, likely the draft's first pick, had 12 of Tennessee's school-record 50 sacks in 2000
10	Virginia Tech (6)	11-1	17	58	Sure-handed Hokie: Junior running back Lee Suggs did not fumble in 222 carries last fall
11	Georgia Tech (17)	9-3	18	55	Senior WR Kelly Campbell needs 27 receptions and 93 yards to become Tech's career leader in both
12	Northwestern	8-4	17	50	WR Jon Schweighardt is the lone new starter for the nation's third-best offense (475.6 yards per game)
13	LSU (22)	8-4	20	41	Senior Rohan Davey threw seven touchdown passes and one interception in 59 attempts last year
14	Michigan (11)	9-3	13	24	WR Marquise Walker starts his senior season having caught at least one pass in 24 straight games
15	Kansas State (9)	11-3	11	38	Senior wideout Aaron Lockett had a Division I-best 22.8 yards per punt return last season
16	Washington (3)	11-1	12	17	Sophomore QB Cody Pickett (1 of 2 for 12 yards in 2000) takes over for Marques Tuiasosopo
17	Wisconsin (23)	9-4	10	39	The top three RBs (Anthony Davis, Tyrone Griffin and Jerone Pettus) have zero college carries
18	Notre Dame (15)	9-3	15	6	Sophomore QB Matt LoVecchio started the Irish's final eight games and went 7-1
19	South Carolina (19)	8-4	18	29	From 0-11 in 1999 to 8-4 in 2000, Holtz's Heroes lost only 15 lettermen, the fewest in the SEC
20	Clemson (16)	9-3	11	64	Will Woodrow Dantzler be the first college player to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in one year?
21	Texas A&M	7-5	12	42	The Aggies have their own Chris Sims, a touted redshirt freshman who takes over as placekicker
22	Mississippi State (24)	8-4	13	40	Senior Pig Prather, who converted from running back in '99, takes over the "dog" safety spot on defense

Compiled by Richard Deitsch Won-lost records include bowl games. Returning starters include kickers and punters. Schedule strength is based on SI's rankings.

RANK	TEAM (FINAL 2000 AP TOP 25 RANK)	2000 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	
23	UCLA	6-6	17	5	A healthy Kenyon Coleman at DE will help the Bruins improve their 88th overall ranking against the run
24	East Carolina	8-4	16	81	A loaded defense welcomes back nine starters, including senior linebacker Pernell Griffin (87 tackles)
25	UNLV	8-5	15	57	Don't be surprised if Jason Thomas (52.7% completion percentage, 14 TD passes) makes a Heisman run
26	Georgia (20)	8-4	15	44	The Dawgs have lost three in a row to Georgia Tech (worst since an eight-loss streak from 1949 to '56)
27	Colorado	3-8	21	18	Stampede: The players who produced 3,953 of the Buffaloes' 3,982 total yards (99.3%) are back
28	Pittsburgh	7-5	17	52	WR Antonio Bryant (130.2-yard average) was the first Panther in 25 years to lead a national stat category
29	USC	5-7	16	1	The conference's best offense (415.9 yards per game last fall) has eight starters back
30	Alabama	3-8	16	4	Senior Freddie Milons (a disappointing 32 catches in 2000) will have opponents seeing Crimson in 2001
31	Ohio State	8-4	13	11	John Cooper was 2-10-1 against Michigan; new coach Jim Tressell gets his first shot on Nov. 24
32	Purdue (13)	8-4	17	26	Coach Joe Tiller hopes redshirt freshman quarterback Brandon Hance finds the spread offense a Brees
33	Colorado State (14)	10-2	14	65	Jason and Justin Gallimore, I-A's only identical twins, each scored a defensive TD vs. Wyoming last year
34	Louisville	9-3	17	80	Zek Parker has six kickoff returns of 60 or more yards in his three years with the Cardinals
35	N.C. State	8-4	14	59	LB Levar Fisher, the reigning ACC defensive player of the year, had a nation-best 166 tackles in 2000
36	Michigan State	5-6	14	31	The Big Ten's best backfield is paced by 249-pound T.J. Duckett and Little John Flowers
37	Fresno State	7-5	19	79	A 15-game home winning streak (third-best in I-A) faces a stern test vs. Oregon State on Sept. 1
38	BYU	6-6	14	83	Brandon Doman is the first Cougar since Steve Young to throw for 300 yards and run for 50 in one game
39	Southern Miss	8-4	20	56	The nation's No. 2 defense (268.2 yards per game) lost seven starters but still has SS Chad Williams
40	Penn State	5-7	12	2	Facing four tough teams early, Joe Pa may not get win No. 325 (and pass the Bear) till October
41	Syracuse	6-5	14	16	Senior DE Dwight Freeney led the Big East with 13 sacks in 2000 despite missing the final four games
42	Stanford	5-6	18	20	Senior safety Tank Williams, as his name suggests, is the big hitter for the Cardinal defense
43	Marshall	8-5	13	106	Junior Byron Leftwich's nine interceptions were the fewest among QBs with 400 attempts
44	Arizona State	6-6	18	30	DE Terrell Suggs was the second Sun Devil to start the first game of his career as a freshman
45	Texas Tech	7-6	12	22	Air Raid: Red Raiders junior Kliff Kingsbury threw 584 passes in 2000, tops in the nation
46	Boston College	7-5	15	35	DE Antonio Garay (294 pounds) earned All-America honors at the 2001 NCAA wrestling championships
47	Virginia	6-6	13	33	Senior Antwoine Womack (1,028 yards) was Virginia's third ACC rushing leader in as many seasons
48	San Diego State	3-8	20	82	Big-play wide receiver Derrick Lewis averaged 25.2 yards per catch in 2000



DEAD RED?
Brian Allen and the No. 42 Cardinal will run for their lives in a stacked Pac-10.

RANK	TEAM (FINAL 2000 AP TOP 25 RANK)	2000 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	
49	Illinois	5-6	13	12	Senior Kurt Kittner has thrown 42 TD passes and 13 interceptions over the past two years
50	UAB	7-4	18	84	Nicknamed the Steel Shield, the defense has 10 starters back, led by senior end Bryan Thomas (10 sacks)
51	Arkansas	6-6	17	13	Sophomore Cedric Cobbs and junior Fred Talley are the SEC's best running tandem
52	North Carolina	6-5	15	21	The Tar Heels open with three road games (Oklahoma, Maryland and Texas) for the first time since 1893
53	UTEP	8-4	13	104	Senior wideout Lee Mays (70 catches, 1,098 yards and an NCAA-best 15 TDs) has NFL scouts drooling
54	Auburn (18)	9-4	11	32	The Tigers have seven senior starters, though offensive tackle Kendall Simmons is one of the SEC's best
55	Toledo	10-1	18	113	Quarterback Taveres Boldon and running back Chester Taylor form the MAC's best backfield
56	West Virginia	7-5	13	46	First-year coach Rich Rodriguez, a disciple of Tommy Bowden, brings the spread offense to Morgantown
57	Western Michigan	9-3	16	100	Early trips to Virginia Tech (Sept. 8) and Michigan (Sept. 15) will have the Broncos ready for MAC play
58	Iowa State (25)	9-3	10	61	Senior Ennis Haywood rushed for 1,237 yards last season, tops in the Big 12
59	Mississippi	7-5	11	67	Three decades after Archie Manning won Rebel hearts, son Eli takes over at Ole Miss
60	TCU	10-2	10	66	La-la land: Junior WR LaTarence Dunbar replaces RB LaDainian Tomlinson as the main weapon
61	Minnesota	6-6	13	27	Ron Johnson, the Big Ten's best wideout, needs 29 catches to become Minnesota's alltime leader
62	Missouri	3-8	16	54	WR Justin Gage, a backup forward on Mizzou's hoops squad, led the Tigers with 44 receptions in 2000
63	Maryland	5-6	17	75	Can first-year coach Ralph Friedgen (class of '69) end the ACC's longest postseason drought (10 years)?
64	Iowa	3-10	17	43	Senior wideout Kahlil Hill averaged 27.2 yards on kickoff returns last season, seventh in the nation
65	San Jose State	7-5	15	71	Short in stature at 5' 6", senior tailback Deoncé Whitaker is long on yardage (1,577 rushing yards in 2000)
66	Temple	4-7	19	69	The lame-duck Owls, voted out of the Big East effective June 30, 2002, have 10 starters back on D
67	Boise State	10-2	11	97	Sophomore QB Ryan Dinwiddie takes over the nation's top scoring offense from a year ago (44.9 ppg)
68	Oklahoma State	3-8	16	47	LB Dwayne Levels had four games in 2000 with 10 or more tackles, including 16 against Missouri
69	Arizona	5-6	14	10	New coach John Mackovic has a good one in sophomore CB Michael Jolivet (five interceptions in 2000)
70	Idaho	5-6	10	105	The nation's eighth-best offense is led by three-year starter John Welsh (3,171 passing yards in 2000)
71	Tulane	6-5	12	62	Sophomore Mewelde Moore's 890 rushing yards were the most for the Green Wave since 1970

RANK	TEAM (FINAL 2000 AP TOP 25 RANK)	2000 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	
72	Air Force	9-3	7	85	Senior wideout Ryan Fleming (52 catches, 930 yards in 2000) is a frequent flier for the Falcons
73	Northern Illinois	6-5	13	110	Senior Chris Finlen set a Huskies record with 1,857 passing yards last season
74	Cincinnati	7-5	10	88	Junior Jonathan Ruffin, the Lou Groza Award winner, made 26 of 29 field goals in 2000
75	Kansas	4-7	11	28	Senior Harrison Hill needs 28 receptions and 753 yards to become the Jayhawks' career leader in both
76	Kentucky	2-9	12	7	Prodigious passer Jared Lorenzen (275 pounds) was second in the nation in total offense last year
77	Middle Tennessee	6-5	13	111	Junior running back Dwone Hicks set a school record with 21 touchdowns last season
78	Vanderbilt	3-8	15	49	Greg Zolman, the SEC's second-leading passer, threw for 2,441 yards, the most by a Commodore since '88
79	Washington State	4-7	19	3	Senior running back Dave Minnich, a former Marine, is the Pac-10's oldest player, at 27
80	Memphis	4-7	15	78	If RB Jeff (Sugar) Sanders has a sweet year, the Tigers won't repeat as Conference USA's worst offense
81	Indiana	3-8	17	19	Senior Antwaan Randle El, the Hoosiers' quarterback the past three years, shifts to wideout
82	Cal	3-8	17	8	A Nixon at Berkeley? Standout linebacker Matt Nixon had 15 tackles for losses last season
83	Houston	3-8	13	70	The WR corps (Brian Robinson, KeyKowa Bell, Brandon Middleton) goes by the nom de catch of Killer B's
84	Utah	4-7	17	77	The Kaufusi Brothers—senior LT Doug and sophomore DE Jason—are tough in the trenches
85	Ohio	7-4	19	94	The nation's No. 2 ground offense has its top three rushers back, including QB Dontrell Jackson
86	Hawaii	3-9	16	103	Native son Timmy Chang (Honolulu's St. Louis High) threw for 3,041 yards as a true freshman
87	Central Florida	7-4	12	90	Brothers Josh and Jake McKibben start side by side on the Golden Knights' defensive line
88	Utah State	5-6	15	96	Senior Emmitt White led the nation in all-purpose yards last season with 238.9 per game
89	Miami (Ohio)	6-5	12	91	Redshirt freshman QB Ben Roethlisberger, an Ohio high school legend recruited by Ohio State, will start
90	Baylor	2-9	19	34	Nine starters are back from the nation's worst offense of a year ago (221.8 yards per game)
91	New Mexico	5-7	13	63	DE Brian Johnson (280 pounds), who led the Mountain West with 9½ sacks, was a 195-pound walk-on
92	Akron	6-5	13	95	Can the Zips make it back-to-back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in 22 years (1977-79)?
93	Wake Forest	2-9	21	37	KR John Stone (two career TDs) was the ACC track champion in both the 100 and 200 meters
94	New Mexico State	3-8	12	74	Senior RB Kenton Keith (7.8 yards per carry) should pick up where Ravens draftee Chris Barnes left off



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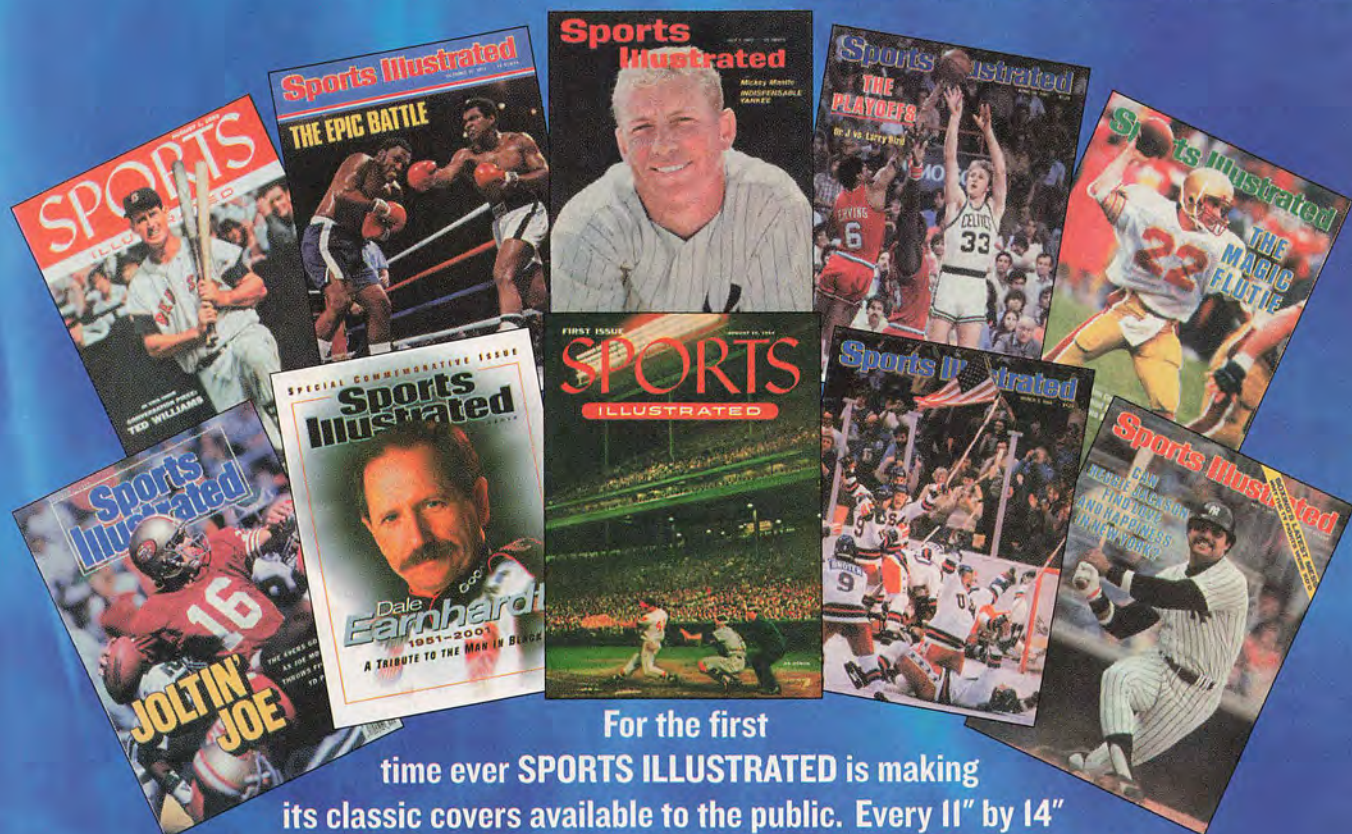


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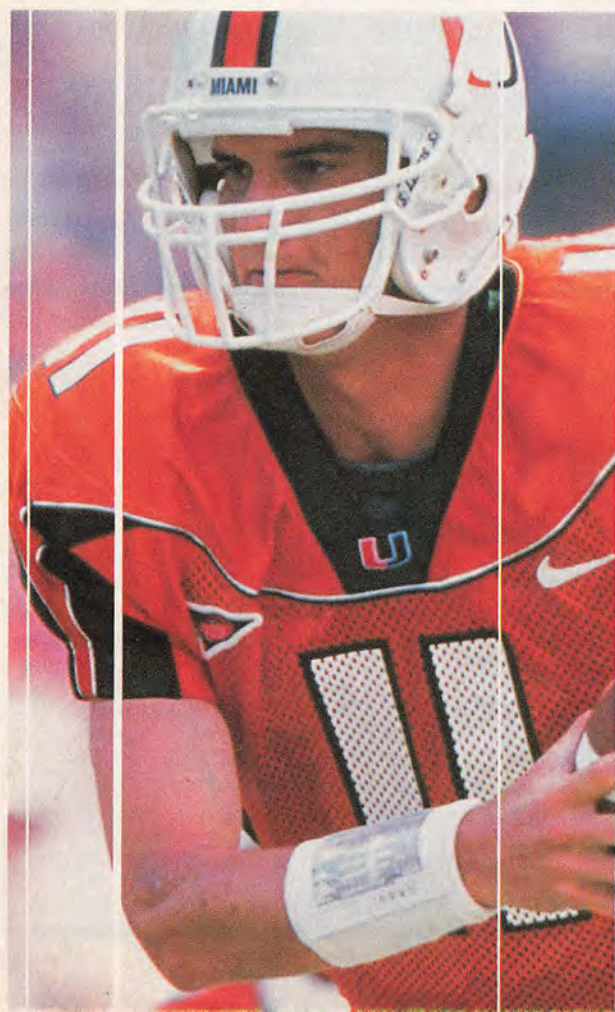
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RANK	TEAM (FINAL 2000 AP TOP 25 RANK)	2000 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	
95	SMU	3-9	21	86	Ten defensive starters are back, led by junior linebacker Vic Vilorio (WAC-best 130 tackles)
96	Tulsa	5-7	17	99	QB Josh Blackenship to WR Donald Shoals has been as good as gold for the Golden Hurricane
97	Rutgers	3-8	15	72	Thanks to its best-ever recruiting class, James Gandolfini's alma mater will whack opponents—in 2003
98	Ball State	5-6	17	107	MAC freshman of the year Talmadge Hill went 5-2 as the Cardinals' starting quarterback
99	North Texas	3-8	13	92	Stout sophomore Brandon Kennedy (5' 10", 325) was second-team All-Big West as a true freshman
100	Duke	0-11	16	23	After six seasons of minor league baseball, freshman Jim Scharrer, 24, will start at linebacker
101	Army	1-10	13	87	Senior WR Omari Thompson is the first Cadet since Glenn Davis with two punt-return TDs in one season
102	Rice	3-8	22	93	Senior LB Dan Dawson led the Owls in tackles (88), tackles for loss (9) and interceptions (7)
103	Central Michigan	2-9	18	98	If RB Vince Webber stays healthy, the Chippewas should improve their anemic 2000 scoring average (12.4)
104	Bowling Green	2-9	18	89	New coach Urban Meyer, formerly of Notre Dame, hopes to help the Falcons (15-29 since '97) take wing
105	Wyoming	1-10	13	68	Massive T Adam Goldberg (320 pounds) leads the way for TB Nate Scott (5.9 yards per carry in 2000)
106	Navy	1-10	12	60	The Middies, 9-25 since 1997, travel to Northwestern on Sept. 15 in the year's second-worst mismatch
107	Louisiana Tech	3-9	17	76	Jack Bicknell III, whose dad coached Doug Flutie at BC, has a potential star in QB Luke McCown
108	Nevada	2-10	19	73	Senior QB David Neil will add to his school-record totals in passing yards, attempts and total offense
109	Kent State	1-10	17	102	Senior LB Rashan Hall had 10 or more tackles four times, with a season-best 14 on two occasions
110	Louisiana-Lafayette	1-10	17	101	The Ragin' Cajuns, who have won six games in the last four seasons, make their Sun Belt debut
111	Eastern Michigan	3-8	12	115	Senior WR Kenny Christian set a MAC single-game record for receptions with 20 against Temple last year
112	Troy State	9-3	14	108	Good news: The Trojans make their I-A debut. Bad news: The season-opener is against Nebraska
113	Buffalo	2-9	14	114	For homecoming the Bulls host Marshall, which has outscored them 106-17 in the last two meetings
114	Arkansas State	1-10	9	116	With alltime leading WR Robert Kilow gone, the offense revolves around tailback Jonathan Adams
115	Louisiana-Monroe	1-10	18	109	The mismatch of the year has the Indians (NCAA-worst 8.73 ppg) traveling to Florida on Sept. 8
116	South Florida	7-4	9	117	Junior quarterback Marquel Blackwell is already South Florida's alltime leader in total offense
117	Connecticut	3-8	21	112	UConn tackles South Florida on Oct. 13 in college football's Mr. Irrelevant Game



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ALTERNATE METHOD OF PARTICIPATION. To participate without purchase at the same odds of winning, print your name, complete address, date of birth, and phone number, with area code, on a 3"x5" card and mail to: Life Savers Win The Hole Thing, P.O. Box 1091, Maple Plain, MN 55583-1091, to be received by 3/22/02. One game play per request; one request per outer mailing envelope. No mechanical reproductions or photocopies of requests accepted. **An independent judging organization will play for you and notify you by mail ONLY if you are a winner.**

PRIZE CLAIMS. Grand Prize: print your name, complete address, date of birth, and day and evening phone numbers with area codes on a 3"x5" card, and mail the card along with actual winning certificate and actual piece of candy (do not chew or otherwise tamper with potentially winning candy pieces) to: Life Savers Win The Hole Thing, P.O. Box 27172, Golden Valley, MN 55427-0172. Grand Prize claim must be mailed via certified mail (return receipt requested) and must include both actual winning certificate and actual candy piece. First Prize: print on a 3"x5" card your name, complete address, date of birth, and day and evening phone numbers with area codes, and mail the 3"x5" card along with the actual piece of candy to: Life Savers Win The Hole Thing, P.O. Box 1090, Maple Plain, MN 55583-1090. For all prize claims, retain a photocopy of your game piece for your records. All prize claims must be received by 3/22/02. Upon verification, winners will be notified by mail. **Partial game piece or submissions that have been tampered with will NOT be accepted.**

PRIZES/APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE (ARV)/ODDS OF WINNING: Grand: (5) Volkswagen® New Beetle® GLX 1.8T, color and options to be determined at the sole discretion of Sponsor. MSRP \$21,175 each. Odds of winning: 1:6,587,941. First: (1,000,001) Who Wants To Be A Millionaire CD-ROM Game, (ARV) \$19.95 each. Odds of winning: 1:34. Total ARV of all prizes \$20,055,875. Approximately 33,439,705 specially marked packages will be distributed.

CONDITIONS ON PRIZES. If Grand Prize is won by a minor, Grand Prize will be awarded to parent/legal guardian of winner. Grand Prize Winner (or his/her parent/legal guardian if minor) will be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release, and a Publicity Release, where legal, within 14 days of notification. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and prize forfeiture.

All additional costs associated with accepting/claiming/using the Grand Prize, which may include sales taxes (except where prohibited by law), title, registration, license fees, insurance and accessories are solely the responsibility of the Grand Prize Winner (or his/her parent/legal guardian if minor). Grand Prize Winner or parent/legal guardian are required to provide proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. Grand Prize Winner is solely responsible for picking up vehicle at dealership specified by Sponsor. First Prizes will be awarded by mail approximately 8-10 weeks after verification. Unclaimed prizes will NOT be awarded.

VERIFICATION. All game pieces (certificate and candy piece) are subject to verification. Game pieces are void and will be rejected if not obtained through authorized, legitimate channels or if any part is illegible, mutilated, altered, counterfeited or tampered with in any way (including but not limited to chewing the candy piece), or if materials contain printing, production, typographical, mechanical or other errors. If because of error (or for any other reason) there are more prize claims in any prize category than prizes offered in such category as stated in these Official Rules, a random drawing will be held from among all eligible claimants in such category to award only the number of prizes for such category as stated in these Official Rules. In no event will more than the stated number of prizes be made available to be won in the Game. Any attempt to defraud Nabisco, Inc., or the official judging agency in any way will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and person or persons attempting same will be disqualified and ineligible for prizes.

ELIGIBILITY. The following categories of persons are not eligible to participate or win: employees of Nabisco, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, Gage Marketing Group, their respective parent companies, affiliates, retailers, subsidiaries, sales representatives, or distributors and persons who are members of the immediate family (parents, children, siblings, spouse) or who reside in the same household (whether related or not) as persons in any of the above categories.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION. Game is subject to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. By participating, participants agree to abide by and be bound by the Official Rules and all decisions of the judges, which are final and binding in all respects. Submission of game materials including but not limited to prize claims is the sole responsibility of the participant. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for late, lost, misdirected, damaged, illegible, delayed, destroyed, incomplete or postage due mail, requests or prize claims. All game materials submitted become the sole property of the Sponsor and will not be returned. No prize substitution or cash equivalent for prizes, except at sole discretion of Sponsor due to prize unavailability for any reason, and only then for prize of equal value. Taxes on prizes are solely the responsibility of winners. Winning game pieces and/or prizes may not be assigned or transferred prior to award. In the event of non-compliance with the requirements set forth in these Official Rules, prize may be forfeited. If prize or prize notification is returned as undeliverable, prize will be forfeited. Limit 1 prize per individual, family or household.

RELEASES. By participating, participant (if minor, his/her parent/legal guardian) releases Nabisco, Inc., Gage Marketing Group, their parent companies, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and their respective directors, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability, loss or damage incurred with respect to all aspects of the Game and the awarding, receipt, possession, acceptance, use or misuse of prizes.

By accepting prize, each winner (if minor, his/her parent/legal guardian) agrees to the Sponsor's use of winner's name, photograph, videotape, and likeness for advertising or publicity purposes and to the use of statements made by or attributed to the winner relating to Nabisco, Inc. or this Game and grants to Sponsor any and all rights to said use, without further compensation or notice, except where prohibited.

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See opposite page for details.

Conference Rankings

Conferences are listed in order of strength.
Each team's SI national ranking is in parentheses

1 SEC	2 PAC-10	3 BIG TEN	4 BIG 12
East	Oregon State (1)	Northwestern (12)	North
Florida (2)	Oregon (7)	Michigan (14)	Nebraska (8)
Tennessee (9)	Washington (16)	Wisconsin (17)	Kansas State (15)
South Carolina (19)	UCLA (23)	Ohio State (31)	Colorado (27)
Georgia (26)	USC (29)	Purdue (32)	Iowa State (58)
Kentucky (76)	Stanford (42)	Michigan State (36)	Missouri (62)
Vanderbilt (78)	Arizona State (44)	Penn State (40)	Kansas (75)
West	Arizona (69)	Illinois (49)	South
LSU (13)	Washington State (79)	Minnesota (61)	Texas (4)
Mississippi State (22)	Cal (82)	Iowa (64)	Oklahoma (5)
Alabama (30)		Indiana (81)	Texas A&M (21)
Arkansas (51)			Texas Tech (45)
Auburn (54)			Oklahoma State (68)
Mississippi (59)			Baylor (90)

5 BIG EAST	6 ACC	7 CONFERENCE USA	8 MOUNTAIN WEST
Miami (3)	Florida State (6)	East Carolina (24)	UNLV (25)
Virginia Tech (10)	Georgia Tech (11)	Louisville (34)	Colorado State (33)
Pittsburgh (28)	Clemson (20)	Southern Miss (39)	BYU (38)
Syracuse (41)	N.C. State (35)	UAB (50)	San Diego State (48)
Boston College (46)	Virginia (47)	TCU (60)	Air Force (72)
West Virginia (56)	North Carolina (52)	Tulane (71)	Utah (84)
Temple (66)	Maryland (63)	Cincinnati (74)	New Mexico (91)
Rutgers (97)	Wake Forest (93)	Memphis (80)	Wyoming (105)
	Duke (100)	Houston (83)	
		Army (101)	

9 WAC	10 MID-AMERICAN	11 INDEPENDENTS	12 SUN BELT
Fresno State (37)	East	Notre Dame (18)	Idaho (70)
UTEP (53)	Marshall (43)	Central Florida (87)	Middle Tennessee (77)
San Jose State (65)	Ohio (85)	Utah State (88)	New Mexico State (94)
Boise State (67)	Miami (Ohio) (89)	Navy (106)	North Texas (99)
Hawaii (86)	Akron (92)	Troy State (112)	Louisiana-Lafayette (110)
SMU (95)	Bowling Green (104)	South Florida (116)	Arkansas State (114)
Tulsa (96)	Kent State (109)	Connecticut (117)	Louisiana-Monroe (115)
Rice (102)	Buffalo (113)		
Louisiana Tech (107)	West		
Nevada (108)	Toledo (55)		

BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

» Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz.
» Jan. 1 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans
» Jan. 2 Orange Bowl in Miami
» Jan. 3 Rose Bowl in Pasadena

The BCS will select the eight teams for its four bowls from the champions of the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC, as well as two at-large teams. The two top teams, as determined by the complex BCS formula, will play for the national championship in the Rose Bowl.



Little>> Giants

by Pete McEntegart

GROWING UP in Fort Valley, Ga., roughly 140 miles from the Georgia Southern campus in Statesboro, Louis Ivory had heard plenty about the school's powerhouse football program. He knew the Eagles had won Division I-AA national championships in 1985, '86, '89 and '90. However, while rushing for more than 3,100 yards as a four-year starter at Peach County High, Ivory was not recruited by Georgia Southern. He wound up signing with Furman; there, as a sophomore tailback two years ago, he intended to make the Eagles pay for their slight when his Paladins made the trip to Statesboro. Instead, with 33 family members in attendance, Ivory was held to 44 yards on 16 carries in a 41-38 loss. Making matters worse, Georgia Southern's own sophomore running back, Adrian Peterson, rushed for 197 yards and three touchdowns. The Eagles went on to win another national title, and Peterson became the first sophomore to win the Walter Payton Award as the Division I-AA player of the year.

After Ivory returned home to Fort Valley that summer, he got an earful about Georgia Southern whenever he slipped into the chair of his favorite barber, Donald (Stinky) Mathis. "Everyone would say, 'You know Georgia Southern can't be beat,'" says Ivory.

Imagine the vindication he felt last Nov. 4, when he rushed for a school-record 301 yards and three scores in Furman's 45-10 romp over top-ranked Georgia Southern, during which Peterson stood on the sideline nursing a hyperextended left elbow. The performance helped catapult Ivory to the 2000 Payton Award and left him rubbing his hands over the next time he would sit in Stinky's chair. "I went back and told them, 'Georgia Southern can't be *what*?' " says Ivory. "The game would have been more interesting if Adrian had played, but it wouldn't have changed the result. He couldn't have made up 35 points by himself."

Maybe not, but when Peterson returned to the lineup for the start of the Division I-AA playoffs, he led the Eagles to their second consecutive national title. Furman, meanwhile, lost in the first round.

With Ivory and Peterson ready to battle for the Payton Award one more time, and with Georgia Southern, Furman and fellow Southern Conference member Appalachian State all ranked in the top 5 of SI's preseason I-AA poll, there's no debating that the

Georgia Southern's Adrian Peterson and Furman's Louis Ivory are two reasons the Southern Conference is the toughest Division I-AA league





Ivory may win his second straight I-AA rushing title, but Peterson (left) is set to become the division's alltime leading ground gainer.

Southern is the toughest small-school league in the country. Even some Division I-A schools would agree, especially North Carolina, smoked 28-3 by Furman in '99, and Wake Forest, stung 20-16 by Appalachian State last fall (the Mountaineers' third victory in their last four games against the Demon Deacons).

"Nobody can question that there are a lot of great football players in the South," says Montana coach Joe Glenn, whose Grizzlies beat Appalachian State in last year's national semifinals before falling to Georgia Southern in the title game. "Everyone goes down there to recruit—even us—because there's so much speed and talent to go around. The Southern Conference schools do a great job finding that speed and talent and then an even better job coaching."

Although the Eagles have won four straight conference crowns, they haven't run the table against league opponents since going 8-0 in 1998. They lost 17-16 to Appalachian State in '99 and won't soon forget the Furman blowout last year. Ivory, a 5' 9", 200-pound slasher who relies on exceptional balance, had touchdown runs of seven, 73 and 37 yards in that game. He finished the year with a conference-record 2,079 yards, a Division I-AA best 189 yards a game (7.3 yards a carry) and topped 200 yards in a game five times. "We've had some great backs," says Furman assistant coach Bobby Lamb, "but none of them put together that kind of season."

If anyone's capable of matching the feat anytime soon, it's the 5' 10", 212-pound Peterson. A bruising runner who picks up a lot

Lower Division Rankings

DIVISION I-AA

		2000 RECORD	2000 RANK	RETURNING STARTERS
1.	Georgia Southern	13-2	1	16
2.	Western Kentucky	11-2	5	20
3.	Furman (S.C.)	9-3	10	19
4.	Montana	13-2	2	14
5.	Appalachian State (N.C.)	10-4	4	15
6.	Eastern Illinois	8-4	17	15
7.	Youngstown (Ohio) State	9-3	11	18
8.	Delaware	12-2	3	15
9.	McNeese State (La.)	8-4	16	13
10.	Grambling (La.) State	10-2	13	15

DIVISION II

		2000 RECORD	2000 RANK	RETURNING STARTERS
1.	Valdosta (Ga.) State	10-2	9	18
2.	UC Davis	12-1	3	10
3.	Delta State (Miss.)	14-1	1	12
4.	Nebraska-Omaha	11-2	6	18
5.	West Georgia	10-2	10	19
6.	North Dakota State	12-2	4	13
7.	Northwest Missouri State	11-1	7	10
8.	Tuskegee (Ala.)	12-0	11	16
9.	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	8-2	15	9
10.	Chadron State (Neb.)	8-3	17	20

DIVISION III

		2000 RECORD	2000 RANK	RETURNING STARTERS
1.	Mount Union (Ohio)	14-0	1	12
2.	Hardin-Simmons (Texas)	12-1	3	16
3.	Washington & Jefferson (Pa.)	9-2	16	15
4.	Pacific Lutheran (Wash.)	9-2	7	17
5.	Western Maryland	10-2	11	17
6.	Trinity (Texas)	10-3	13	14
7.	St. John's (Minn.)	13-2	2	5
8.	Widener (Pa.)	12-2	6	16
9.	Bridgewater (Va.)	10-2	15	18
10.	Rowan (N.J.)	7-2	—	16

of his yards after contact, the Alachua, Fla., native has rushed for at least 100 yards in each of the 43 college games he's played and needs 1,454 yards to surpass the Division I career record of 6,553 held by Charles Roberts of Cal State-Sacramento (1997-2000). Moreover, Peterson has been at his best in 12 career playoff games, with 2,266 rushing yards and 27 touchdowns.

It's that postseason record that separates Peterson from Ivory, and Ivory knows it. That's why both players say that while they'd welcome a second Payton Award, they're both after the national championship trophy that the Eagles so jealously guard. "Once they get in the playoffs, they understand that it's win or go home," says Ivory. "They understand that better than anyone in the country. That's what we have to learn."

If the Paladins can beat Georgia Southern at *that* game, it will give Stinky and the boys back at the barber shop something new to talk about. □

Dear Derek . . .



by Rick Reilly

THE LOCKER next to Derek Jeter's in the New York Yankees' home clubhouse throbs with his unopened mail. It piles up in feet. Spills onto the carpet. Gives off odd smells. *Aches* to be opened. So I asked him if I could open it all. He said yes. Here's what I found in 261 pieces of mail.

Despite pleas of URGENT! and IMPORTANT! and TAPE THIS ASAP TO DEREK JETER'S LOCKER! on the envelopes, most of the letter writers wanted only his autograph—141 to be exact, including 52 on Jeter photos they sent, 13 on baseballs they sent, the rest on all kinds of stuff, like a book report and a baby photo. To aid their cause, eight people even sent pens. One, seeking an autograph for her sailor husband, wrote, "Think of the publicity you'll get!" *Tonight on the 11 o'clock news: Derek Jeter signs autograph for sailor!*

Jeter is one of the rare athletes who tries to respond to all his mail himself, but he admitted, "I'm a couple road trips behind." It's no wonder. Reading his mail for one day is more depressing than watching the NASDAQ Composite. Most requests came from people who "wouldn't normally ask for something like this," except that they were hearing-impaired; had lost a grandfather, a best friend or their appendix; had a brain tumor, an aneurysm, a breach baby, essential tremor disease, breast cancer, colitis, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome or colon cancer; had gone through a rough divorce or fallen off a bike; were abandoned or unloved.

One hopelessly doomed woman needed an autograph because she had "lost four close friends, a father-in-law and almost an alcoholic father, had an apartment fire, had a miscarriage of twins and has to take care of my loser husband." Lady, you don't need an autograph; you need a telethon.

There were three out-and-out come-ons from women, including one jaw-dropper that would make a dead man straighten his tie. She included her photo and her phone number "as a long shot that you might call me." Jeter wasn't going to. "I never date anybody that way," he said. (However, I am selling the number on eBay, beginning on Tuesday.)

People *really* needed Jeter at their movie premieres (3), auc-

tions (6), Playboy Mansion party, Eagle Scout ceremony, third-grade play, backyard BBQ ("and bring all your teammates"), boat ride and birthday parties (3, including one in Tampa from a boy who wrote, "Make sure you bring your swimsuit").

There were four pitches from real estate agents—including a man who was standing by "for all your real estate needs in the greater Akron area"—and two people begging for money. One guy wanted \$20,000. "That's only .002 of your income," he wrote, for "a small addition on our house . . . a car loan and . . . upgrading the musical equipment I have." Well, as long as it's an emergency!

Too bad Jeter doesn't *have* any money. Otherwise, why would MasterCard have sent a letter that read, "We regret to inform you that we are unable to approve your application at this time"? Jeter's average salary is only \$19 million a year. Perhaps he should try for a debit card. Luckily, there was also a notice from an insurance group informing him that he might be "eligible for worker's comp benefits under Florida statute 440." Not only that, but he was entitled to "29 cents a mile" for doctor's visits.

One guy
wanted
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only .002 of
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he wrote.

It would mean "so, so much" if Jeter would accept people's gifts of bubble gum, poems (2), cookies (by the 100s), audio letters (2), shoes (wrong size), needlepoint, novels (2), rambling seven-page essays about Pokémon (6, all from the same woman) and a dead woman's

favorite Yankees T-shirt and shorts, which, after three weeks in a plastic bag, stank to wherever she is now. "It was her final wish," wrote her daughter. "I'm hoping they bring you luck."

Nearly every request came with the phrase, "It'll only take a minute," except for the one from the kid who wanted Jeter to send a lot of baseball tips and the one from the mother who instructed Jeter to "write a brief, encouraging letter" to her Little Leaguer. What, no song?

Only nine people out of the 261 wanted nothing except to tell Jeter how much they loved watching him play ball. There was even a small, handwritten thank-you note—from David Letterman for appearing on his show.

Jeter had a game to play, so I asked him what he wanted me to do with it all. "Just stick it back in that locker," he said. I trucked the letters back in, only to find something awful sitting there.

The new mail. □

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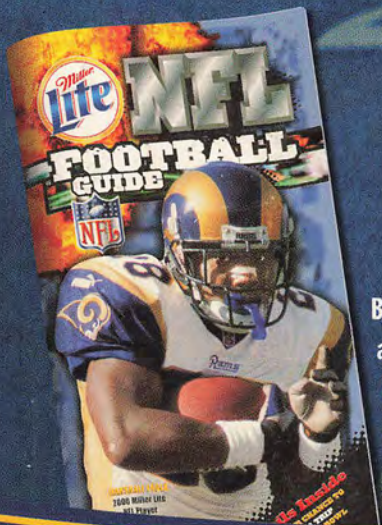
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